

OUR PROGRAM—To tell the truth as we see it. To do our best for our City, our State and our Nation.

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When Clocks Strike Eleven We Will Call It Midnight

TODAY, including what's left of it, the people of the United States are entered upon the closing hours of an experience which may not recur for many months. Not much longer will they live, breathe and have their being to the measure of standard time.

In this respect tomorrow will be as today and days gone by. People may go to church, as they should, at the usual time. But as the day wears on toward nightfall, they will realize a sense of impending loss. One hour is about to be lifted away from them; 60 minutes, 3,600 seconds, gone for a while beyond recall.

The loss is scheduled for incurrence at 2 o'clock, Monday morning. On the stroke of 2, comes the instant sacrifice. It will be 3 a. m.

At 2 o'clock in the morning only those persons whose duties require are likely to be up and about. Others will be abed; and all who wish to rise at the new "right time" will have made ready before retirement. We venture to say that around 11 p. m. tomorrow, virtually every clock in the land will have been moved to mark 12 midnight.

The loss of the hour is not one to be taken sadly. Milton was not altogether fair in his exorcism—"Hence, loathed melancholy, of Cerberus and blackest midnight born." The thought of Keats is the more hopeful—"There is a budding morrow in midnight."

It is to the morrow we shall be looking, hopefully, cheerfully and with determination. Even though we may feel slight guilt of falsification in forcing faithful clocks to leap the hour, we well know for what great cause this must be done.

Earlier experiments in daylight saving have been fraught with much confusion. They were scattered and sporadic. Daylight was saved here and there, and elsewhere left to run the customary course.

This time the entire Union of the states, the nation as a whole, will drop the hour and go along together in the matter of time, as well as in every purpose and endeavor.

Too Much Shortening

THE latest portrait of R. F. C.'s Jesse Jones, who is also secretary of commerce, is going the rounds of the press. He is shown holding up for admiration an automobile tire made of synthetic rubber. Nearby stands another gentleman with an uprooted guayule bush. Guayule is the source of the substitute for rubber.

The likeness of Mr. Jones is excellent. The guayule bush is true to life. The tire looks as good as any fresh from the hands of its maker.

Mr. Jones says production of synthetic rubber already has begun on a large scale. The guayule is a prolific grower over large areas of southwestern states. The possibilities are said to be unlimited.

Returning to London this week after a brief visit in Washington, W. Averell Harriman publicly announced that the United States soon would be able to supply all the synthetic rubber needed by the Allied Nations.

Meanwhile, one of this country's largest producers of regular rubber tires declared a few days ago that supplies on hand are sufficient to meet all normal needs for at least three years.

All of which suggests that re-examination of facts and careful consideration may shake some of the shortening out of many predicted shortages.

Sentence Sermons

WARS ARE SELDOM—

- An encouragement to calm thinking.
- Waged with all the courage on one side.
- Completely understood by the people who wage them.
- The result of any one cause.
- Able to pay their own expenses.
- Won by those who spend their time giving advice.

After All, It's OUR Government; Let's Keep It That

JUST in case the many persons serving as Democratic and Republican precinct workers should be interested in what The Times thinks, we submit the opinion that it is their duty to buy defense stamps and bonds and to encourage buying by others.

They should do this, however, not because they are precinct workers, members of partisan committees, but because they are American citizens. They should buy and boost the sale of stamps and bonds, not because the chairmen of Democratic and Republican state committees have presumed to pledge them to do so—a pledge no party chairman has any authority to give—but because as citizens they are fully aware of the nature of the emergency.

The Times comes back to this topic to clear up any misunderstanding. When the two party chairmen, Mr. Coleman (D) and Mr. Oakshott (R) issued their joint order calling out all party workers, they said, in substance, that support of the administration in war must not be diluted by partisanship.

Everyone will agree with that; but no one should be permitted to infer that partisanship must be shelved for the duration; that no thought should be given to domestic policies and problems, nor to the future of the country and its government when war shall end.

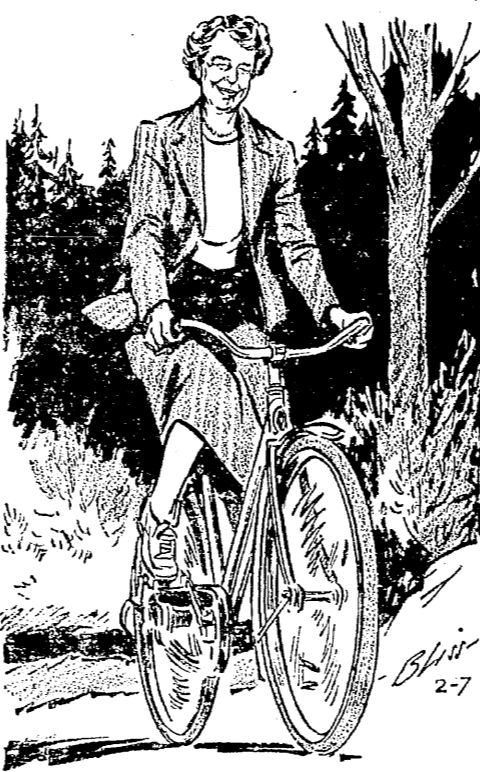
Every true American stands staunchly with his government today, and will not be stirred from that stand while war goes on. Every necessary surrender of individual rights and privileges will be made. Vast authority already has been vested in government. As much more as may be required will be granted.

But this is all for war—and it is only for war. It is with no least hint of present distrust, much less disloyalty, that millions of Americans are pondering the question of how easy or how hard it may be to recapture rights and privileges foregone for war and to reduce government from totalitarian dimensions when war is done.

This question is immediately pertinent. It must be considered in connection with the elections of this year. The people must be careful to conserve such rights as need not be surrendered, even temporarily, to carry on war. They must not consent to such a build-up of government as cannot be quickly brought back to normal sufficiency.

PRIVATE LIVES

By Edwin Cox

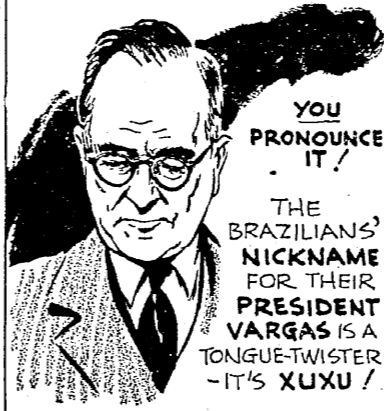


BACK TO THE BIKE

GUESS WHO'S LEADING THE PARADE TO CONSERVE ON GASOLINE?
MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
—WHO'S BUYING A BICYCLE TO RIDE AROUND HYDE PARK!



GOT ANY #20 GOLD PIECES?
THAT'S WHAT IT TOOK TO PLAY THE SLOT MACHINE OF THE LATE KING PRAJADHIBOK OF THAILAND. THE MACHINE IS STILL IN THE ROYAL PALACE.



YOU PRONOUNCE IT!

THE BRAZILIANS' NICKNAME FOR THEIR PRESIDENT VARGAS IS A TONGUE-TWISTER—IT'S XUXU!

Australians, Still Fearful of Invasion, Depending More on U. S. Than Britain

By CONSTANTINE BROWN

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Feb. 7.—There is a strong desire on the part of Australia and New Zealand to make Washington the center of strategy of all Allied operations in the Pacific.

Although it is believed the Canadians would not oppose such a scheme, there is certain opposition in the British cabinet and House of Commons, out of fear over what may happen to the Pacific dominions after the war if they become accustomed to looking to the United States as their principal pillar of support.

The Australian and New Zealand governments are not particularly worried about post-war problems at the present time. Their main concern today is to save their territories from invasion. Because the United States has its hands freed by Great Britain and because this country is the arsenal of democracy and the principal source of manpower for the Pacific war, the Canberra and Auckland governments want to deal as directly as possible with Washington in all matters concerning defense of the Pacific.

It is obvious to all who know the state of mind in those two important partners of the British Empire that there is no question of severing ties with London. The desire of Australia and New Zealand to have Washington as the strategic center of the Pacific war is due solely to the fact that the dominions can afford no delays.

Neither can they afford to have their defenses subjected to the same thing as may happen on the European and African fronts in the next few months. What is happening at Singapore today has been an eye-opener for the dominions. Because the British High Command decided to chase the will-of-the-wisp Gen. Erwin Rommel, the newest and best American and British bombers and pursuit planes were concentrated in Libya, and only left-overs were sent to defend Singapore and the Malay Peninsula.

This strategy is packed with more disastrous consequences than if the British had merely maintained themselves in defensive positions on the Egyptian-Libyan border and had sent an adequate number of bombers and other types of planes to the Far East.

Diplomatic Triumph at Rio de Janeiro Will Live Long After Guns Are Silenced

By DAVID LAWRENCE

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Feb. 7.—Overshadowed perhaps by the more spectacular news from the Far East, the achievement at Rio de Janeiro whereby 21 American republics acted in unison against the Axis can best be measured by imagining the state of affairs the United States would be in today if the Nazis had bases in Brazil and in the countries immediately surrounding the Panama Canal.

The return of Sumner Welles, undersecretary of state, has not been heralded as the triumph it really is. Nor has attention been given to the year and a half of work done by Nelson Rockefeller and his Office of Inter-American Affairs in cultivating the ground on which the latest evidence of Pan-American solidarity could be so firmly based.

Deeper, however, than the accomplishments of recent months is the spirit of the good neighbor policy itself which has been persistently acclaimed by President Roosevelt and which will rank as one of the most constructive policies in the history of America's external relations.

AGAIN and again through past administrations, the Presidents and secretaries of state have striven to impress on the Central and South American countries the sincerity of purpose of the United States, but it has remained for the Roosevelt administration to reach the goal.

For today, Latin America trusts the United States to a greater extent than ever has been believed possible among 20 sovereign nations of differing aspirations and interests.

The reason for the success of the policy is that the American government has at last learned that the nations to the south of us are independent in spirit and can neither be patronized nor bamboozled, and that concrete measures of friendship are recognized as such when they are disinterestedly presented.

Even today, it is feared in the Pacific dominions, Great Britain may decide, or be compelled, to slow down the flow of war material and men to the threatened Pacific areas in the event the Nazis begin an all-out attack in the Mediterranean and the Near East or attempt an invasion of Great Britain.

THERE is complete coordination between the Japanese and Nazi general staffs. Should the Japanese encounter stiff opposition from the United Nations, it is more than probable that Hitler will start operations threatening the vital lines of Great Britain or the islands themselves.

It is only natural for the London government, considering the shirt closer than the coat, to make every possible effort to stop the direct Nazi threat to England.

Britain is still relying to a great extent on war materials and even manpower from the United States. For the time being she can spare a few divisions and a number of planes for the Pacific area. But she cannot spare men-of-war or planes in great quantities.

WHEN the Nazi attack begins, and most military experts believe it cannot be delayed more than a few weeks, Britain will need every man and plane at her disposal.

When this happens—assuming that the German attack will begin before the Japanese are physically exhausted—the dominions fear they will be told to fend for themselves in the defense of their territories.

Australia and New Zealand believe the problem facing the United States is very close to their own. They are convinced that America, with its ever-growing industrial power and its huge potential of manpower, will be in a better position than Britain to rush to their support in moments of need.

Thus, without prejudice to Britain's position in the war, they would like to have their own plenipotentiaries in Washington to deal directly with the United States government and to discuss, on their own, Pacific strategy.

Their shouts for help are more audible in Washington than in London.

considerable time in Pan-American relationships of a cultural as well as economic nature and whose enthusiasm for the nations to the south of us was infectious.

The cooperation of Jesse Jones, federal loan administrator, and Warren Pierson, the head of the Export-Import Bank, and the development of a system of priorities and allocations through the Board of Economic Warfare, of which Vice President Wallace is the head, were all factors in laying the foundation for the progress made at Rio last month.

LATIN AMERICA has felt the pinch of the worldwide economic situation. Shipping is scarce. Certain raw materials and manufactured goods from the United States are vital to the preservation of the economic equilibrium of most of the Pan-American countries.

This was the kind of thing which, if mishandled, could have produced ill-feeling or apathy when it became necessary to secure uniform action in breaking with the Axis.

Once diplomatic relations are severed, fifth columnists can be weeded out, shorelines can be patrolled to prevent submarine bases from being established and generally America's defense can be promoted.

One needs only to look at the map to realize what Japan could do on the West Coast and what Germany could do in the South Atlantic if either nation had air or submarine bases in the hemisphere.

MESSRS. WELLES and Rockefeller and the entire Washington mechanism which has been specializing in Pan-American relations had as much to do with national defense in what they have painstakingly labored to accomplish these last eighteen months as if they had been part of our military and naval forces themselves.

What is more important, however, is that a foundation has been laid on which a permanent policy can be superimposed. The steps which the United States has taken and which the countries to the south of us have reciprocally taken will live long in the memories of all the peoples in this hemisphere.

It is the kind of constructive relationship that a future armistice in this war, instead of suspending, may well build further because it is a rare example of the kind of international cooperation that can be developed through the processes of reason and mutual trust. It is a milestone in American history.

Excuse, Please; But What's In Those Jap Text-Books?

By HENRY McLEMORE

LOS ANGELES, Saturday, Feb. 7.—Slant my eyes, bow my legs, and hammer me down. I'm turning Japanese.

Two weeks in California have convinced me that the only happy people out here in time of war are the sons of Nippon. Everyone is being so kind and so considerate. From Washington, Mr. Biddle does everything but give us rice for the lovely ones.

The police and military authorities make it a point to see that the Japanese are given every consideration. Americans don't get that out here any more than they do in your home town. An American must keep his "dukes" up, keep swinging from the floor, to see that he isn't buffeted around.

But not the Japanese. Since the delightful and charming attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese in America have enjoyed a new and comfortable status. They are pointed out. They are enjoying civil liberties they never heard of before.

IN case you think I'm jesting, let us consider the matter of Japanese language schools.

Before Pearl Harbor, there were 248 such schools in Southern California. The schools had a combined attendance of 13,000. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, the Japanese sponsors (these schools are completely apart from the California educational system) closed the schools. Everyone said, "How nice, how patriotic of the Japanese." Everyone in California was very proud of this voluntary sacrifice.

But that was a few weeks ago. The smoke has died down from the bombs in Honolulu. The American dead have been buried. The treachery has become a slogan.

So, what have the Japanese done? Nothing, except to politely try to open those damn schools once more.

THEY have contacted United States Attorney William Fleet Palmer. William Fleet Palmer was very stern with the Hashimuro togos. In a hard-bitten, nasty statement he was quoted as telling them: "This office certainly will not lend any encouragement to the reopening of the Japanese schools."

This hardly seems fair. This brutal answer to our charming little friends shocks me. Here the Japs are doing their best to take their juvenile American-born offspring and teach them that Emperor Hirohito is the leading citizen of the world, a near god, and completely without wrong.

Who are we, as Americans, to discourage this sort of thing? The fact that we are at war with Japan and that our national existence depends upon beating Japan certainly furnishes no excuse for intolerance.

AFTER all, the books that are taught in these schools are printed in Japan. My knowledge of Japanese is very slight; so slight in fact that I can't read a word of the stuff.

But even to such a casual student of the language as myself, it is obvious that these books, while they may not openly rap our United States, bend over backwards (as far as books can bend over backwards) to keep from putting in a plug for this country.

Even the pictures don't give the United States a break. You won't find Mount Vernon or Valley Forge or Belleau Wood or Dewey returning from Manila in there. No, sir! You get a load of pint-sized mountaineers full of snow, a mess of fans, and two or three potential fifth-columnists among the chrysanthemums in a vase.

The schools have nothing to do with the California educational system, as I said before. The children who attend them are American citizens, actually, and from 9 until 3 attend the regular public schools, which are among the best in the country.

But they go straight from the American schools to the Japanese schools. At 3:30, 19,000 little American Sons of Heaven whip into the Jap classes and concentrate on forgetting the American way of life they learned earlier in the day.

BUT, thank Heaven, the government is not intolerant. Everyone seems to have made up his mind that this country is going to remain a democracy, even at the risk of having it run by a bunch of rickshav operators.

So, hand me down my rice cakes. I am off to break sukuyaki with one of the most intelligent, earnest, well-educated (in California's Japanese language schools) saboteurs that it has been my displeasure to know.

'Dear Sir' and 'Yours Truly' Really Don't Mean Much

By DALE HARRISON

NEW YORK, Saturday, Feb. 7.—A Bridgeport (Conn.) communicant opens his letter without salutation, and his first paragraph explains it:

"Please disregard omission of a customary (to me a trite custom) form of salutation. For several years I have gradually freed myself from the adoption of the greetings letter, with omission, too, of the final adieu 'Dear Sir' and 'Yours Truly'."

"It was somewhat difficult at first, as a blanket proposition, but now I can address everyone in a straight-from-the-mark manner with impunity, and feel no sense of misgiving and without loss of dignity. My dear this-and-that was a fine old custom, as was 'Yours truly.' Perhaps these and similar terms shall endure, but for my part they are as defunct and as meaningless as the pledges of Europe's madmen. It is just as well to like it."

Not a bad idea, at that.

THE list of best-selling records of the week as compiled by Victor has lately carried the record "God Bless America" and "The Star-Spangled Banner," sung by Kate Smith, as among the six most popular records being sold—the first time a national anthem of any country has ever been a best-seller. I believe.

Which brings to mind the campaign concocted a few years ago by Vincent Lopez's press agent, which laid great stress upon Vincent's arrangement of the music of "The Star-Spangled Banner" to get rid of the high note that goes with the word "free" which musicians generally believe is out of the range of the average singing voice.

Mr. Lopez's press agent succeeded, as I recall, in getting some important persons to express approval of the revision, but nothing came of it. Why? Mr. Lopez and his press agent overlooked was the native darning of all Americans when singing in chorus.

No note is too high for an American. He will tackle a high E-flat with as much boldness as a Lily Pons and with a great deal more gusto. He may not achieve it, but he'll land somewhere in the vicinity, and will be just as happy about it as if he were a reincarnated Caruso.

SOME Folk Say:

Grace Hartman, the dancer, remarks that "If a man drops a girl like a hot potato, it's probably because she's half baked."

Mugsy Spangler, the maestro, comments that "It's a funny world. 'A few words in a church, and you're married. A few words mumbled in your sleep, and you're divorced.'"

When John Kirby, one of the few bass viol players to become an orchestra leader, heard about the Jap invasion of Manila, he punned: "Those Japs will find they've engaged in a Luzon proposition."

THE NEIGHBORS

By George Clark



"I can't say how I might do against dive bombers, but it's been quite a spell since I've had to use a second shell on anything with wings."