VOICE OF THE PRESS

CHOICE IN SLAVERY

Deploring the strikes and slowdowns in war industry, an American workman, writing to the Buffalo News, says: "I would rather slave for my country than become a slave to the conqueror." He has said something there that all free people might well take to heart. No one has better expressed the will to victory that should prevail on the home fronts of all the democracies.

—Hamilton Spectator.

—o—

NO NEED TO WORRY

Under a War Production Board ruling at Washington, cellophane may no longer be used for window envelopes—the kind that invoices and bills come in.

But we can assure the people of the United States that there is no cause to either worry or rejoice. Cellophane or no cellophane, the bills will still come in.

—Huron Expositor, Seaforth.

—o—

THE USE OF TIRES

An advertisement in this paper today shows that the percentage of wear on motor tires has a variation, dependent upon how they are used, from 12 to 38 per cent. The motorist who strives for 12 per cent. will be riding when the fellow who hits the 38 per cent. will be walking.

—St. Catharines Standard.

—o—

ANOTHER PROBLEM

It is obvious that, eventually, the ban on tires will put an end to motoring. And the return of the h.-and-b. era may not be as carefree as some people think. What are we going to do, for instance, if the steel controller says Dobbin can't have another set of shoes?

—Ottawa Citizen.

—o—

BAD TIMES AHEAD

Bad times for the young also lie ahead. On a tandem bicycle a girl rides a yard or so in front of her male escort, and experiments show that from that position it is practically impossible to get her head on his shoulder.

—Sudbury Star.

—o—

HEROES OF THE SEA

Who is a greater hero than the man in the engine room, or for that matter, on the deck of a tanker carrying a hundred thousand barrels of gasoline and oil through a submarine-infested sea?

—Saturday Evening Post.

—o—

LOVE 'EM TO DEATH

The Japanese maintain that the Allies are waging a war of hate. Whereas the Japs just want to love everybody to death.

—Peterborough Examiner.

—o—

PASTORAL WISDOM

A collar button has been found in the stomach of a late Oklahoma cow. It affirms the wisdom, we suppose, of not letting cattle graze under the dresser.

—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

—o—

A WARNING

"It's a great life if your tires don't weaken. Watch your tread, brother!

—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

—o—

IGNORANCE IS BLISS

It's a good thing hens don't know how much masons get for laying bricks.

—Kitchener Record.

Output In Britain Raised 40 Per Cent

Mr. Ralph Assheton, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Supply, said that war production figures had increased more than 40 per cent since last September, but the Ministry of Supply "already sees a way to go far beyond this."

"The Government will not be satisfied with anything less than the very greatest volume of production of which we are capable," he told the Commons.

He said the period of great physical expansion was past its peak and that "our task is to make the fullest possible use of our capacity."

More than 1,000,000 persons are working for the Ministry of Supply in the manufacture of engines alone, he said.

In more than 40 ordnance factories, 300,000 workers are employed while 20,000 are employed in smaller factories.

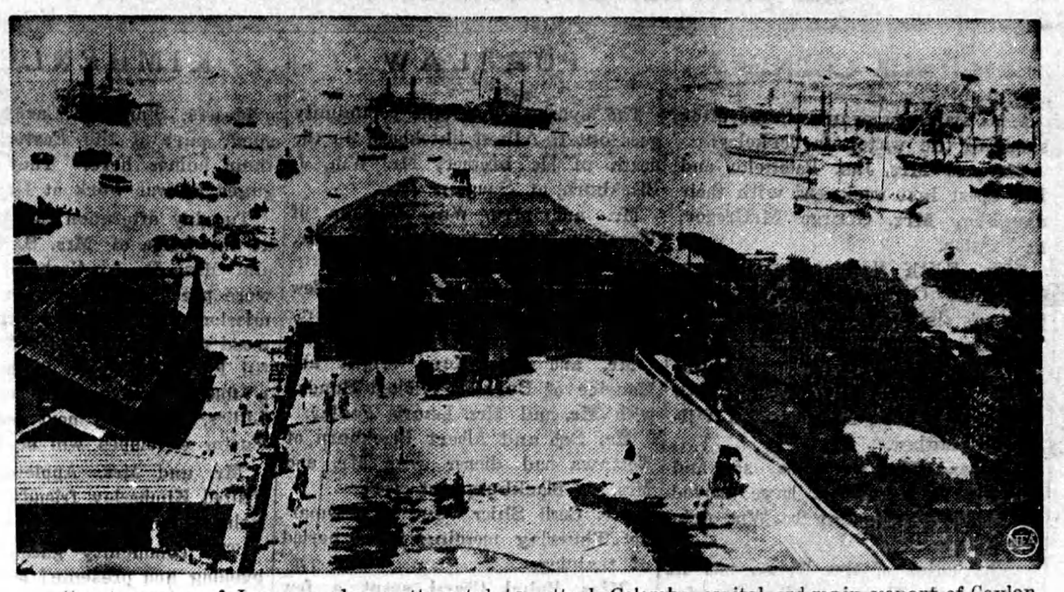
The vast majority of the workers of every class, he said, are "doing their job magnificently."

Personal Delivery

Tony Amarai, 27, of Boston, decided he would rather deliver, than manufacture bullets, so he resigned his job in an ammunition factory and joined the navy.

"While I was making bullets," he said, "I got the feeling I wanted to deliver them to the Japs and Huns."

CEYLON—WHERE JAPANESE "SURPRISE" BACKFIRED



Great swarms of Japanese planes attempted to attack Colombo, capital and main seaport of Ceylon. Its important harbor is shown above. Jap raid was smashed when British defenders shot down at least 32 planes and riddled 25 more. The Japanese, apparently thinking they could catch the defenders napping, killed a "few-citizens" with bombs but met with "utter failure" from a military point of view, spokesmen said. Ceylon, famous for its tea, is only 60 miles south of India and could serve as a springboard for a United Nations' offensive against the enemy or be used by the Japanese to invade India and cut off supplies to China and Russia.

Use Elephants To Haul War Material

First Shipments Reach China By Substitute Burma Road

Carried part way on the backs of elephants which lurched through dense jungle, war materials have started to reach China by one of the two new supply routes from India replacing the railway from Rangoon to the Burma road.

The first shipments along the "jungle trail" were hauled over the mountains from India to Burma and carried by boats before they reached the head of the Burma road at Lashio, from where Chinese trucks speeded them into Yunnan Province.

British and Chinese engineers are rushing construction of a highway to permit through truck hauls from India that would eliminate the many transfers now necessary. Officials here expect them to finish in several months work which normally would take several years.

Simultaneously, Chinese engineers are building a second highway across the mountains of Northeast India, part of the mighty Himalayas. They face tremendous engineering problems that will delay use of this route longer than use of the other highway.

The newspaper Ta Kung Pao reported from Kumming, capital of Yunnan Province, that the provincial government is mustering huge groups of laborers to work on the roads and will send them across Burma to India.

Chinese officials are confident that the new roads are far enough north of the war zone in South and Central Burma to be protected indefinitely from the Japanese.

One-Third of India Ruled By Princes

Whole Of India Does Not Belong To Great Britain

It is generally thought in the West, even in England, that the whole of India "belongs to England," says the Christian Science Monitor. The fact is that nearly one-third of India, including a quarter of the population, has never strictly speaking "belonged to Britain."

Nor has it been ruled or administered by the British Government. Its people owe allegiance not to the King-Emperor, but to their own rulers. They are not subjects of King George VI.

The rulers of Indian states are sometimes incorrectly described as "under the thumb of a British Resident". Except in the case of a weak or youthful prince, the Resident confines himself to his prescribed duties

The relations between the states and the British Government are based upon distinct and varying treaties. The substance of these, at least in the case of the more important states, is that internally the princes are independent and sovereign rulers but their external policy is vested by agreement in the British Government.

Princes Guard Rights

Most of the princes are very jealous of their rights. They founded the Chamber of Princes specifically to safeguard their powers and prorogatives.

The rule of an Indian prince is often condemned because it is autocratic. Yet in India, individual rulership is still the type of government that in many ways best suits the mental, moral and religious condition of India. Men, as distinct from ideas and ideals, are still paramount to the majority. Mohandas K. Gandhi means more to the masses than home rule

The ruler of an Indian state, though autocratic, is rarely a tyrant. Kingshi in India is hedged with restraints or tradition and religion perhaps more binding than those of some constitutional monarchies. A ruler might be incapable or a scoundrel, but sooner or later the consequences of his misdeeds will be visited upon him or upon his successors. Rulers of the major Indian states rarely do anything definitely displeasing to their subjects.

They are more inclined to wish to keep them contented. Some of them have made conspicuous efforts to improve the conditions of their people. Those that have been loath to give their subjects democratic institutions can usually say there is no real demand for them. The average Indian in the states prefers a "responsive" to a "responsible" government.

Backward Sections

There are many backward areas in India's six hundred or so states. Quite a number are mere estates and are probably on their way out. There are some so poverty-stricken that it would seem more merciful to find these princes other jobs.

But the major states, such as Mysore, Travancore, Kashmir, Baroda, Hyderabad are on the whole forces for good. They make their contribution to the well-being of India. If India cannot be a unitary country like England, it can certainly be a union.

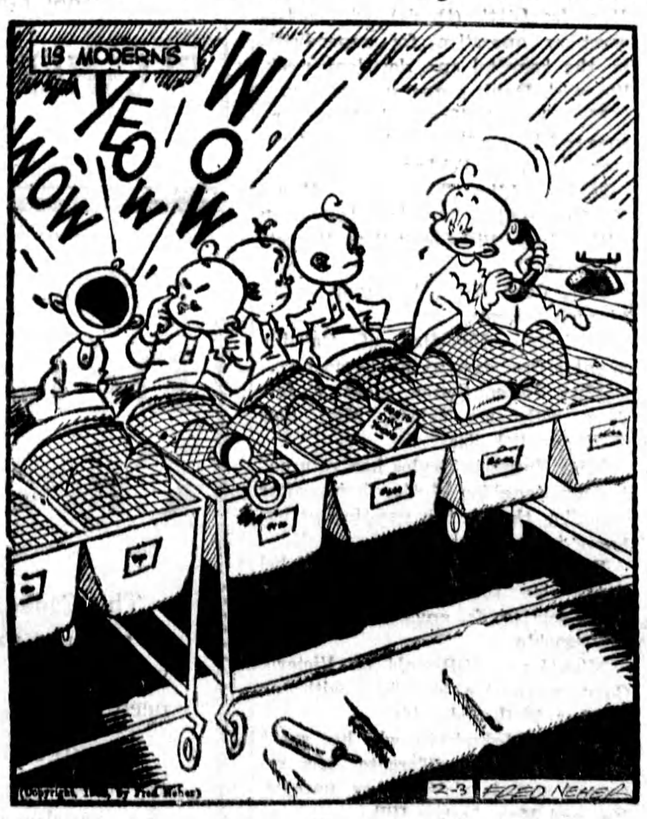
Some of the princes have been less than adequate, but the mapority have been men of culture and wisdom. The late Maharaja of Baroda was a thinker and a scholar of no mean repute; and the Jam of Nawanagar, of cricket fame, held a high reputation as a statesman at Geneva.

The Nizam of Hyderabad is a genuine statesman, perhaps the shrewdest to be found in all India. He has done a lot for his state.

The foundation of the Osmania University—where Hindustani is the chief meduim of instruction—will do much to unite the various castes and creeds in the state.

Even the leftist Congress Party has to admit that the rulers of Mysore and of Travancore are men of breadth and vision.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT By Fred Neher



"It's some radio survey. . . . They want to know what we're listening to!"

Church Plays Part

For the first time since the Middle Ages, Salisbury Cathedral was used for a secular purpose when a Ministry of Information meeting was held here. The dean said he felt the church "must play its part in this war".

The average length of a sugar stalk is twelve feet.

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

Japanese At The Gates Of India Aid To Russia Must Be Maintained

Sir Stafford Cripps, in the following words, outlined the new goal for India:

"The object is the creation of a new Indian union which shall constitute a dominion associated with the United Kingdom and other dominions by a common allegiance to the Crown but equal to them in every respect, in no way subordinate in any aspect of its domestic and external affairs."

In this plan is foreseen full independence for India after the war. Great Britain has offered to India: (1) the basis of a constitution upon which all groups in India may find agreement; (2) British defense of India from Japan and Germany while details of the constitution are being worked out.

India Divided

The plan went far toward meeting the demands of the Indian leaders, says the New York Times. It was backed by the public opinion of the United Nations which further guaranteed its sincerity. Sir Stafford was known to be India's friend, who had fought long for the subcontinent's independence. But there remained many difficulties. India was racially and religiously divided; her masses were traditionally suspicious of British rule. Over four centuries of European exploitation, two centuries of domination by the British cried silently to Indian leaders and the people.

In more than 2,000 years of their history the people of India had seen the rise and fall of many dynasties, had felt repeated waves of immigration and invasion. Buddhist, Hindu, Moslem and numerous other faiths had formed their religious creeds. Strict systems of caste divided the people; the successions of conquest by native princes left deep-seated animosities in the masses.

Many Difficulties

The plan proposed by Sir Stafford Cripps in New Delhi was Britain's answer to the tide of nationalism which grew in India under the Empire's rule.

Sir Stafford's plan met with no immediate acceptance by the Indian leaders. The principal objection appeared to be Britain's retention of the responsibility for India's defense; it was contended by the country's leaders that this duty should be in India's hands. On other points the parties differed widely: the Hindu majority demanded immediate self-government; the Moslems, comprising one-fourth of the subcontinent's population, feared Hindu domination in a self-ruled dominion. Other minorities turned down the plan. For example, the Sikhs, who make the greatest contribution to Britain's Indian armies, voiced the fear that they would be oppressed by the Moslem majority of 13,500,000 in their native Punjabs

Hopes For Compromise

To solve these difficulties—if a solution were possible—Sir Stafford held repeated conferences with Indian leaders, and Sir Archibald Wavell. It was hoped that a compromise solution of the defense problem might be evolved. The possibility that President Roosevelt might lend his efforts to press for settlement was also discussed in diplomatic circles.

The outlook for India was dark if Sir Stafford failed in his mission. Although Japan had sounded the cry of "India for the Indians" there seemed little doubt that Japanese conquest of the country would mean another lengthy period of subjugation. If Britain's plan were rejected internal dissension might make India an easy prey for the invader.

India Is Attacked

The imminence of the danger was clearly evident in the advance of Japanese troops on the Burma front and a strong naval and air attack on the Island of Ceylon. The attack in Ceylon was repulsed with heavy losses to the Japanese but had it succeeded the Allied lines of communication to Calcutta would have been severed. Later the Japanese made an attack on the East coast of India 600 miles north of Ceylon.

The Indian leaders appear to have been stirred by the instincts of self-preservation and have appealed to the United States to induce Britain to yield more ground on the question of control of India's defense.

Britain is making an honest effort to give India a fair deal. There would be no difficulty over the problem if the people were united. But India is not one country; it is many countries, each of which seeks it own advantage. The problem is grave and time presses—the enemy is already at the gates of India.

Russia And Japan

Military experts in London consider it wholly improbable that Japan will sit still while Russia is heavily engaged in the West. A collision between Russia and Japan appears to be inevitable. The Japanese are ready to strike. They have probably not used more than 500,000 of their 4 to 5 million troops in their South Pacific operations and few of these have been of their best. Their finest soldiers, it is believed, are mobilized in Manchukuo and are ready for an attack on Vladivostok, one of the most powerful fortifications in the world.

Aid To Russia

The Japanese forces in Manchukuo are probably greater and better equipped than the Russian Siberian army. Russia has been forced to transfer some troops and material from the Siberian front for use in the winter campaign against Hitler. It is clear, therefore, that aid to Russia is of paramount importance. Outstanding military experts believe that the war can be won on the two Russian fronts; one would afford a base whence Berlin could be bombed; the other similar base for the bombing of Tokyo.

Can the United Nations, especially the United States, deliver sufficient supplies to Russia on two fronts, by way of the Pacific and Atlantic, while they are at the same time making deliveries through Persia and in the Middle East, as well as to Australia and India? On the answer to this question everything may depend.

Overtime Work Here Headache To Hitler

Giving up rest periods of thirty minutes during which they usually smoke, one hundred workers on the midnight shift at Plant No. 7 of the Bohn Aluminum & Brass Corporation, Detroit, speeded up shell production as a tribute to General MacArthur and worked eight and a half hours instead of eight.

After finishing their work, the men collected money and sent a telegram to MacArthur telling of their contribution.

"We pledge ourselves behind you and swear that shoulder-to-shoulder, the forces of democracy will be victorious," their telegram informed MacArthur.

The men will continue overproduction whenever they can, Edward Krizuk, U.A.W. - C.I.O. shop steward, said.

The swastika is generally interpreted as a symbol of the sun.

Canny Scot Gets Some Easy Money

During the victorious march against the Italians in Libya, the commanding officer of a Scottish unit was concerned because his men were not capturing as many Italians as the Australians. Appealing to uphold the honor of Scotland, he offered a reward of 2s 6d a hundred for all the prisoners brought in.

Next morning, one of the Scotties presented himself with eight hundred prisoners, and, surprised, and delighted the colonel paid £1.

As the man was leaving, the colonel asked him how he had managed to capture, single-handed, 800 Italians.

"I didn't," replied the Scottie, "I bought them from an Aussie at a bob a hundred."

The scientific name for the mocking bird, mimus polyglottos, means many-tongued mimic.

REG'LAR FELLERS—A Bad Break By GENE BYRNES