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And Evening Chronicle

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Idle Dreams

Tomorrow's World Will Look A Great Deal Like Today's

Of all the anxious observers who see this world ending upon the time of its end, none seems so concerned with what appears to be the most appalling crisis of them all—the happy simpering about the future, a sort of spot-before-the-eyes of tomorrow. The world may not be suffering from the disease, and shows no desire to be cured. Chiefly the strange condition of our times may be laid to the failure of our leadership to define rationally the days ahead; but the people have proceeded with their foolishness as if they needed a leadership, no inane example.

There is the incredible belief, couched in a kind of childlike and unshakable faith, that when the peace comes upon the world, all of a beautiful and soft, will spring forward by something like a thousand years in a day. For this magnificent prospect, the world is sitting with its hair in papers, awaiting the magic hour. The world is busy enough with its war, and most of it apparently believes in the war, but too much it looks beyond with a dreamy stare. For such dreamers, there can be only a bleak disappointment.

To be sure, there must be hopes and plans for a better world to come, and Franklin Roosevelt nobly when he has finished his own dreams of tomorrow against men who scoffed. There must, in this war, be the hope of a lasting peace, of a new era of prosperity and understanding, of a forward march for the world. But the world is not looking back to a miracle of the ages only millenniums away. For, as the peace is written, there will be no rush of warm, human understanding among nations and groups of nations, but a terrific contest for the old problems, similar to haunt us again and magnified a hundred fold.

For example, heavy tax burdens cannot be lifted immediately, but must continue for an indefinite period—or less. The expected technical development cannot be forthcoming; progress will march at something like a normal pace. Further, toward employment of the wartime peak is certain to lag, and the great compression will bring conditions that will be a continuation of the days of realism through which we are living now; and it may be expected that some men and some nations will continue to show themselves as unfit for life in the world neighborhood as they are today.

Store Hogs

Women on Spending Sprees Hit New High in Selfishness

Last week a large number of Charlotte housewives gave ample evidence that they neither know nor care what this war is about. They are frightened into a kind of buying frenzy by a series of rumors that the rationing of clothing was imminent; they crowded into stores, literally fought to purchase goods for which they had little practical use. In giving vent to their complete selfishness, they did their bit to hurry the rationing of clothes all over the country.

They have not, chances are, given a thought to the war except as it introduces tiny new frictions into their lives. Most of them would be agast if charged personally with the failure of a neighbor's responsibility; they cannot stop to reflect that a foolish spending spree will adversely affect our total wartime economy.

These women, remember, are not a few; millions of them react in the same way: every day, all over the country. And they are, of course, urged on by husbands and families. They have yet to learn that rationing does not spell shortage, but is only a means of preventing shortage and guaranteeing a fair share of everything to everyone. Or do the rub-tubs ever think of anyone?

Victory Coup

"Green" General Shows How Veterans Are To Be Liked

In the years to come, when the military history of this greatest of wars is written, there may be only a few lines for the Battle of Tunisia, prelude to the Axis ruin. And there may be, too, only a passing mention of the part played by Major General Lloyd R. Fredendall of the Army of the United States in the minor but important campaign. Though the General's action outside of Tebessa on the Algerian plain will become a detail lost in a great story, it was of the stuff of which legend is born.

General Fredendall is another of the American braves, who have grown up almost overnight to positions of command, a shrewd tactician whose favorite weapons are tank corps. He won his fame in the maneuvers of 1941, starring in the war games in the Carolinas. There he learned the tricks of meeting greater forces with sharper attacks. There he learned the lessons he used to such advantage in North Africa.

For some strange reason, his story has not become familiar to Americans. This is the knowledge that Edwin Rommel was stopped just as he was on the point of dividing the Allied Army and winning a major victory, but apparently the watchers back home missed General Fredendall. It is he who is credited with the little trick that halted the German advance and, in the moment of greatest danger to our cause, turned the tide that promises to flow henceforth in one direction to Hitler's doom.

Outside Tebessa, probing about his lines near the front, as usual, the General suddenly caught the meaning of the confusion of battle. Twenty-two miles away was Tebessa, a vital point. Had the Germans been able to break through, the British First Army to the west might have been isolated. The Americans had to stop Rommel, and they had little time and far smaller forces. It was then that General Lloyd Fredendall hit an armored column on a road, ordered it to the last ridge in front of Tebessa, and thus saved the day. From there, Rommel was forced back, and his retreat began.

Party Of The Peace?

GOP Meets Destiny

By WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE
In The American Mercury
FATE appears to be tapping the shoulder of the Republican Party. In the elections of 1942, the people elevated what had been a minority party to a full partnership in the new government. Seventy-five million Americans now have Republican governors in their States, and the new government is now carried on in states with Republican administrations. At the recent meeting of the Council of State Government in Baltimore, it was easy to see that Governors like Stassen, Mitchell, Bricker, Ohio, Saltonstall of Massachusetts, and Griswold of Nebraska have taken the lead in the Democratic collapse. The shouting from the smart whippers in the embassies says: "Cultivate the Republican leaders, for the Republicans may make the peace."

If it is possible to believe that the trend toward the Republican Party will continue; that the voter's impulse to "sweep the bureaucrats out of Washington" will grow stronger; and that the Republican Party, indeed, may find itself charged with the responsibility of leadership at the peace table and during the postwar reorganization of this country.

Because of this possibility, every American Party must be concerned with the mind of the Republican Party, with the thinking of the Republican leadership, and with the Republican plan for the peace and for postwar America. The jockeying for leadership and the internal policy debates within the Republican fold are not the concern of Republicans only, because they will prove fatal to the whole country and the whole world. The Republicans should be encouraged to draw a new blueprint, to agree among themselves as to its specifications, and to present their blueprint to the people for approval. Unless this is done, the country must run the risk of conferring leadership upon a negative Republican party which either has no program at all or has the wrong kind of program.

One Republican who is determined to make his party keep its date with destiny is 33-year-old Harold E. Stassen, second-term Governor of Minnesota. Expecting to enter the Navy in April, Stassen is wasting no time in his efforts to promote discussion of Republican aims and ideals. He thinks that if Republicans will talk enough and debate enough during the next fifteen months they can evolve a plan which the people will approve and which may save the world from another dose of syndicalism and disillusionment of the 1930's brand.

I sat with Stassen on a Saturday afternoon high up in the St. Paul Hotel. Outside it was 22 below zero and we looked out the window across snow-packed houses and streets as we talked. He has none of the cynicism of any professional politician, but talks easily and earnestly with no airs and off-the-record remarks. His ancestry is Norwegian and German and he is built like a Minnesota halfback.

"This time the people can send instructed delegates to the peace conference," Stassen's belief in presenting specific proposals to the people derives from his own political experience. In his first race for governor, he avoided oratory and simply went out and told voters what he wanted to do if elected. He offered a detailed plan, and when he was elected, he used his plan as a blueprint. He converted overalls into surplus, cleaned houses, gave Minnesota a model labor relations law, and improved public services. His re-election last November was foregone conclusion.

The same plan, he thinks, can be used now with relation to postwar America and the postwar world. The blueprint, with specific proposals, must be evolved and presented to the people. Only then, when the majority has approved it, the administration can proceed. With plenty of public discussion, a resulting agreement, and honest leadership, there need be no doubts as to where America stands at the peace conference.

"I asked him: 'Do you think the people will want the Republican Party to make the peace and rebuild the country?'"
"Yes, I do," he answered. "And I think the Republican Party has the greatest opportunity in its history. Next year is the election year. It looks as if the war will still be going on, but it should be nearing an end. That means that just before the peace negotiations begin—the American people will have a chance to say what kind of peace they want and what this country's commitments shall be to the postwar world. I think this circumstance is important. We can prevent failure and disillusionment and cynicism if we, as Republican leaders, will tell the people exactly what we propose to do after the war, and then proceed to do it."

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"The landlord's right here, and he says what's a little leak in our attic when our soldiers are getting soaked to the skin every day in the tropical storms!"

Whatever Happens

Reds Feared

NEW YORK
COME men have worried that Russia might not stop at her own borders. Some have worried that she might stop there, giving us back the war. It has remained for Senator Wheeler to worry about both possibilities simultaneously. He called a reporter in, the other day, and said there was a possibility that Russia might go right on toward Berlin. That would give her control of Europe. The Senator did not appear to be in favor of that.

But he went on to say there was also a possibility Russia might stop fighting when she came to her own borders. The Senator seemed to find that equally distasteful. It is quite clear now that Russia goes on whether she stops, the Senator from Montana is not going to like it.

When the big Russian push rolled past Kharkov, we heard a good deal of whispering to the effect that the Soviet drive had so much momentum it could not halt until it pulled up before the gates of Paris, its brakes screeching. Mr. Stallen's order of the day, of last week, with its sole stated aim of ousting the invader from Russian territory, should, therefore, have been profoundly reassuring. It proclaimed no intention on the part of the Soviet armies to travel and see the world.

But on the contrary, the whisper immediately went up: "See! Those Russians do not really intend to cross their own borders. They are going to pull out on us when they hit the last county line." Soviet policy is therefore damned if it does and also damned if it doesn't.

If the Soviet armies cross their own borders, that will be described by some, the same, as a desertion of the Allied cause. Their policy for Russia would be to have her cross the one line, but remain on her own side, and then, having finished this hard job, to roll over and die for the convenience of the Allies.

That is a good round plan. It is complete. It covers all eventualities, but it is not likely to be adopted. We cannot ask a great power to do a contentions turn; to appear and disappear conveniently; to materialize and dematerialize like a genie according to the whims of our own desires. It might be supposed, then, that those who are most in fear of Russia would be most in favor of a second front. If nothing Russia can do, but remain on her own side, and then, having finished this hard job, to roll over and die for the convenience of the Allies.

There Should Be Appropriate Recognition



Air Caution

Flight Is Now A Weapon

By Raymond Clapper
The British Isles are the keystones of our defense in the Atlantic. The circle air route by way of Iceland, Greenland and Canada is part of our defense. This line to the United Kingdom, which is known among Navy men as the US-UK line, has top priority in all of our external defenses.

Speedy Slowdown

New Jazz Age

United States News
High wages are upseting some home-hunters who have started some war workers out on a spree. They are a small minority of the workers, their action is not widespread, but it is being watched by employers. But there are enough of them to endanger production schedules.

Today's Bible Verse

BUT GOD WILL NOT COMPEL US, OUR WILLINGNESS IS NECESSARY. WE WILL: So I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil: in that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and keep his commandments, and his statutes, that thou mayest prosper and increase, and that thou mayest live long.