

Sound Advice

When an old professional soldier winds up a war, and very probably a distinguished career, by paying tribute to a citizen army it speaks well for the nation as a whole. General George C. Marshall, releasing a biennial report that seems likely to stand as his valedictory, made bigger headlines by valuing the future with alarm than by pointing with pride to the past. But his quiet satisfaction with the civilians he converted into soldiers was manifest.

General Marshall warns that America must prepare for war or perish, but his idea of preparedness is a far cry from, say, General Pershing's. The army he created, the mechanized monster that surrounded its enemies and created a bookful of new tactical principles, is already obsolete. The General decries the pages of his report to painting a terrifying picture of tomorrow, a time of abstract destruction that may, at last, free men of the necessity of fighting on their feet.

The General, remembering his military history, hedges. Always met new method of attack has been met by a new defense, and war, as the most recent one did, still degenerate into the effort of a handful of military professionals to outwit the masses. He proposes that we prepare for the possibility of a push-button war by placing ultimate emphasis on research, and at the same time train our youth in the basic skills of soldiering.

General Marshall proved to everyone's satisfaction that military professionals can convert a civilian into a satisfactory soldier in a year's time. That's the record he now proposes in recommending universal military training. It is necessary to believe, that the training period be unbroken, that a potential striking force be maintained at a constant level, for we are not likely to have another two-year notice that a fight is coming.

The General is concerned primarily with the mechanics of assembling and equipping a military machine, but he recognizes that the success of a citizen army, in the future, will depend to a large degree upon the mental attitudes of the citizenry from which it is drawn. He has little faith in idealism.

We have ignored the hard realities of war, we have been pure idealists. We must start, I think, with a correction of the tragic misunderstanding of the nature of war. General Marshall's advice is clear: To preserve the peace we must stand ready to fight. At this moment, when we have turned the rebuilding of the world over to practical politicians, it can't be ignored.

The Question

The American Legion, burning with fellow feeling after all these years, is out to aid the present crop of veterans by liberalizing the loan provisions of the G. I. Bill of Rights. The powerful Legion lobby in Washington is pushing a measure of its own designed to "cut the red tape out of the present bill."

It's a worthy enterprise, doubtless, but it misses the point of the veterans' present difficulties. It isn't administrative red tape that prevents him from using his \$2,000 Government-guaranteed loan as a down payment on a house, a farm, or a business. It is his inability to find anywhere in this broad land a property worth the money now being asked for it.

The sponsors of the original bill, in a well-meant, if futile, effort to protect him against the top-heavy real estate market to which he is returning, provided that no loan would be granted until it had been approved by an appropriate Federal agency—Reconstruction Finance Corporation or Farm Security Administration—and finally by the Veterans' Administration. These agencies have consistently refused to approve loans on properties priced above what is laughingly referred to as a normal value.

The veteran isn't required to use his loan immediately, and one effect of the present bill is to preserve his \$2,000 credit until the boom has lost some of its virulence. But the future is dim, and a veteran who is bucking a rental shortage that forces him into the market in his effort to find adequate shelter. The net effect of the restriction is

Dangerous Justice

A French court has now found Pierre Laval guilty of treason, and sentenced him to die before a firing squad, a privilege he would never have received under American law which reserves shooting for reasonably honorable criminals. The passing of the discredited old opportunist isn't particularly important, but his trial was, for it illustrates the enormous difficulties facing us as we finally set to pass judgment on our own batch of war criminals in Austria.

The Laval case was much simpler than any that will face Justice Jackson and his colleagues for it was a Frenchman being tried at home under domestic law. When we call up German war criminals this week, we will be treading on strange legal ground where there is little, if any, precedent.

But the disorderly and emotional atmosphere of the Laval trial will also exist in the international court we have established, no matter how well regulated the processes of justice may be. Laval virtually waived his right to offer a defense, knowing, as he did, that it would be impossible to find a jury in France that had not already decided his guilt. He was indicted, not by a French court, but by his countrymen's bitter memory of the five years of degradation he had imposed on them.

After all, what is there for a war criminal to say in his own defense? If the system he represented was wrong, then the uniform he wore or the position he held establishes a guilt. We shall try to find Nazis, and it is difficult to think of any defense against the simple charge of being one.

The best we can hope to get out of the trials is a certain degree of revenge, an opportunity to dispose of key Nazi leaders in a legal manner, and an extension of the voluminous record of German atrocities. It probably will be worth it, but there is a grave danger of reducing justice to the level of satire, as French did in their trial of Pierre Laval.

Consistency

Strange are the uses of the anti-inflation argument. It is being employed, as we have noted, by certain rugged individuals in their campaign against union efforts to break through wage ceilings. And now it is also serving these same gentlemen as they fight the Government's effort to put a floor under wages.

According to Dr. Claudius Murchison, president of the Cotton Textile Institute, his industry can't stand the 65-cent an hour minimum wage proposed by President Truman. "The proposed bill is definitely inflationary," he charges. The industry's average in the South is already almost up to the 65-cent level (64.4). And this level is already such, Dr. Murchison says, that the government must relax its price controls if the industry is to prosper.

It's real, isn't it, on wages and no floor. A floor under prices and no ceiling. That, we suppose, makes it come out even.

"I have always hesitated to write on Far Eastern affairs, knowing something about them," said the author of the book, "but I have found, through some honest, though somewhat unprofessional, help."

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record)

THE Senate was having a little difficulty over the terminology of the Full Employment Bill. . . .

"Mr. ARKEN. I do not see why anyone should be in the work 'investing' written into the bill when investment might be necessary. . . .

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON  
THE Secret Service has a harder time keeping pace with Harry Truman than any other President in years—especially when he's back in his home stamping grounds. Truman loves to mingle with friends, and here and there, in crowds, can't seem to get used to the fact that he is President. . . .

All Summer, news men have been trying to get photographs of the inside of the Summer White House. . . .

Press-Shy Mrs. Truman

Friends say that one reason for Mrs. Truman's press-shyness is an attempt to be the opposite of Mrs. Roosevelt. This is not because Mrs. T. is critical of Mrs. Roosevelt, but rather because she never was in the public eye. . . .

Mrs. Wallace, now in her eighties, has decided ideas on a lot of things, at one time including her son-in-law. Everybody in Independence knows that Harry Truman carried Beat Wallace for a long time and that the Wallace family didn't approve of him. . . .

Harry Truman's hospitality nearly precipitated a newspaper civil war when he visited Independence last

month. Mayor Roger T. Berman gave his usual stag party of old friends for the President, and Truman invited many new men. . . .

Army vs. Navy

Hugh Delaney, scrappy freshman Representative from Seattle, asked the 600th question at a recent session of the Naval Affairs Committee. "Admiral Denfeld," he asked the new Chief of Naval Personnel. . . .

Atom Expert Disappears

The greatest living expert on atomic energy, Werner Heisenberg, has disappeared. His whereabouts remains a complete mystery. The War Department won't say whether he was captured by the Allies or escaped them. . . .

Who Killed Cock Robin?



Our Friends Are Amazed

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON  
WHEN Robert Burns wrote his immortal lines about the gift of seeing ourselves as others see us, he was writing about individual men and women in their day to day relationships.

First, my friend was astonished at the extent of the claims to disarm America immediately by disarming the armies of occupation. While he was too polite to put it in so many words, I could tell that what appeared to him as a new phase of America's old, backward-looking isolationism.

Bring Back The Boys

He had talked with several Congressmen about the demand to "bring the boys back home." What they had said was rather amusing, and particularly one Congressman who had made this reply: "Well, you must understand that this is a democracy. In a democracy we have to do whatever the people want. If they want to get American boys back home—and that's what every man shows—they've got to do it."

Conservative New Deal

"At home," my friend said, "we have always thought of the New Deal as a very mild reform. My paper is a conservative paper. I suppose one of the most conservative papers in Europe, but we never found very much to quarrel with Roosevelt's program."

Another phenomenon disturbed this visitor who has always held America in high regard. That is the tone of the attacks on the late President Roosevelt and the members of his family. To one who has come to regard Roosevelt as a great national figure, loomed large in the history of the world, they seemed scurrilous and shocking.

People's Platform

Let's Keep The Draft  
By MRS. R. L. DEATON  
Charlotte  
If I may be permitted to do so, I should like to submit an opinion in your paper as to the way a soldier's wife and mother feels regard to a soldier husband being retained in the Armed Forces when he is no longer needed, and is in no way essential to the service at the present time.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbrith



"Yep, the old Victory garden where I broke my back and ruined my disposition—next year you'll see me flitting around there playing tennis!"

Coming Out Even

By Samuel Grafton

IF some German were to come forward with a demand that Germany be allowed to export 2,898,000,000 marks' worth of goods a year, the world would be inclined to answer with a short, crude laugh. . . .

For the plan rests on a mass of contradictions. It is gravely explained that Germany needs these exports mainly to pay the Allies for the cost of occupation. . . .

But the main purpose of occupation is to clean up the German industry so that it can be turned to world peace! To permit Germany to export goods to pay the cost of occupation is to square everything off, and to do everything up next year, to have a strong ally. . . .

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