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Armistice In The War Of Words?

It is entirely proper that Premier Stalin's latest estimate of the world's peace prospects be examined with great care. It is not the Generalissimo's custom to grant interviews to the press, even restricted, when one, and on rare occasions when he does so, his words always fit into some overall diplomatic pattern. It is inevitable that any talk of peace from the boss of all the Russias should be greeted with universal skepticism. The peoples of the West do not trust Josef Stalin, and with good reason.

If Comrade Stalin's statement could be accepted at face value it would, indeed, be encouraging. And the most encouraging part of it would be his somewhat boastful statement that the capitalist democracies of the West could not encircle the USSR "even if they wanted to." Such constant defenders of the USSR as Henry Wallace, and such constant apologists as Claude Pepper, have long insisted that Russian aggression is actually defensive, and that the West is actually against the threat of the hostile West. If Stalin himself isn't whistling in the dark, if he really believes that the USSR is at last capable of defending herself against all comers, at least one compelling motive for war will have been removed. There is no real indication that Mr. Stalin's suspicions of the West have been materially reduced, but even naked distrust is far less dangerous when it is no longer coupled with fear.



People's Platform Well, Where Is It?

CHARLOTTE EDITORS, THE NEWS: I HAVE been trying to compare the editorial in today's paper with the article on the front page of today's paper. It seems that the Agriculture Department, according to your editorial, infers that all of the meat was sold out and on the front page they say that we have an exceedingly large amount of cattle on the range. But, there is one thing that we can agree on and that is, there is practically no meat in the butcher shops.

'A Challenge To The Law...'

WHEN he passed sentence on the defendants Blanton and Shore at the conclusion of the "divorce trial" in Superior Court last week Judge Frank M. Armstrong referred to the case as "one of the worst in my experience." He has since elaborated on that thesis in a lengthy and eloquent statement from the bench, going beyond the immediate aspects of the case to attack the legal system, for its failure to protect and defend the rights of the innocent.

felt it necessary to include in his remarks a sharp reminder that the responsibility is shared by every lawyer admitted to the bar. "There has been much said in the trial and argument of this case that lawyers are not required to run an investigating agency. I shall not give a discourse on the duties and responsibilities of lawyers. . . . It unquestionably is the duty of an attorney to fully and thoroughly investigate every case brought into the courts."

People's Platform Executive Secretary, JAMES B. VOGLER, 408 S. W. 11th St., Charlotte, N.C.

NOTE: On Friday Time Magazine said: "Where was the meat? A great deal of it had been slaughtered in the ten-week ceilingless period when farmers had sent to market just about every animal that could walk or crawl. Much of that meat had been eaten, but doubtless large quantities of it had been stored by buyers who were waiting for a rise in prices. The meat which was still out on the nation's pastures on the forefoot was the return of that meat for many weeks. Meat industry experts could sight no easing of the shortage before the year's end."

The High Cost Of Prohibition

WHEN Bob Flack took over his new duties as City Manager of Durham the other day he had a pleasant surprise waiting for him, a windfall he had almost forgotten during his tenure in Charlotte. There, big as life and almost as welcome was a check for \$76,573.28 forwarded, indirectly, by citizens of Durham who have never once complained about the tax that has been levied to sum every three months for general City purposes.

streets. It would, in fact, amount to almost one-seventh of the City's annual budget. Of course this money, in the eyes of those who have managed to keep it out of the City Treasury, is "unearned." Somehow we can't find any evidence that the public morals are being improved by diverting this stream of cash into the coffers of South Carolina liquor dealers.

CharLOTTeans?

WHAT to call the inhabitants of a city is a question that is in many cases hard to answer. I have often been puzzled on this, and the matter is again brought to mind by the appearance in a Charlotte News editorial of the word CharLOTteans (for residents of Charlotte) and Port MILLians (for residents of Port Mill).

Another Voice

DEMAND is being made for the ouster of Wilson Wyatt as housing expediter on grounds of inefficiency. A study shows that only 10 per cent of the enterprises on the program has been completed, although 30 per cent of the time has elapsed, and it is charged that he is using the powers and funds entrusted to him to advance public housing and socialization.

Wilson Wyatt

shortages of both skilled labor and construction materials for which the housing expediter can hardly be blamed, the demand being greater than the supply. Such shortages naturally add to construction time and building costs, but the latter would undoubtedly be greater without the controls which are being condemned as "choking off the flow of building materials and discouraging the enterprise of businessmen."

Quote, Unquote

The greatest difficulty encountered by the statesmen who are convening in Paris is not the settlement of the Peace Treaty. The real problem is the creation of conditions of peaceful intercourse within an amiable group of nations. Portuguese Premier Antonio de Oliveira e Silva said:

Drew Pearson's Barkley Kin Seeks To Get Lazy-Swiss Firm Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON WITH the public engrossed with Cabinet flare-ups and the Russian imbroglio, a lot of jolly plums may go to certain business firms who know the ropes in Washington. These firms are the ones who are competing for the office of the Alien Property Custodian, supposed to be a German property for the taxpayers. One of the bidders is the Swiss-Navy firm set up by the United States during the war.

STOCKHOLM

Stockholm's excellent newspapers on the same day were accounts of the crisis over Henry Wallace in the United States and of the purge of directors of collective farms in Russia. They were both in the way of the West, in this small progressive country, which is in many respects one of the most advanced in the world. Here pre-war values have been disturbed less than anywhere else. It is a significant fact that the progressive Europe that, before 1929, was moving toward better times, is now moving toward worse. More than ever before, the Sweden is a small nation in a world dominated by big powers. They follow with the most intense interest the every development in the struggle now going on in the international arena.

REACTION TO WALLACE It was difficult to exaggerate the repercussions of the Wallace affair and, of course, the reaction here in the type of the throughout the Continent. The Stuttgart speech of Secretary of State James Byrnes seemed intended to proceed with an orderly plan for the reconstruction of Europe, either with or without Russian cooperation. Then came the Wallace move. It is not to be denied that it was a bold and unwise thing to do and easy everything that had gone before.

Samuel Grafton Anti-Wallace Stampedede

THE attack against Wallace and his position is becoming too good of a stampedede for our own good. It is too nearly unanimous and so sure, it is altogether sound. If there really were as much anxiety over the nation's press, and a few hours spent with Wallace, it is really believe that the anti-Wallacees would not be nearly so excited as they are today. It is not that Wallace is wrong, but that the anti-Wallacees are right, then Wallace is only a mouse, but if he is a mouse, he is a mouse to scream so.

From The Diplomatic Pouch

THEIR been some eyebrow lifting in the State Department over the way U. S. Ambassador George Messersmith has been hobnobbing with the Spaniards. Messersmith has even made several talks to Peron's followers to the effect that Argentina will be considered a worthy ally. It is not only that, but Messersmith's trip to Argentina is not only his eye-brows, but is so. Messersmith's trip to Argentina is not only his eye-brows, but is so. Messersmith's trip to Argentina is not only his eye-brows, but is so.