

Social Advances Merited, Too, by P.O. Workers

THE PHRASE "social advances" as interpreted by the school of administrative thought which is most fond of using it, means specifically a greater participation by labor in the nation's profits.

Wages consequently have advanced to the point where it is difficult to mention a craft or trade whose scale of remuneration has remained at the same level for a number of years.

Yet in the very citadel of an administration dedicated to "social advances," there is a numerous, loyal, zealous and proverbially efficient class of workers whose pay has not been raised for 17 years; who cannot strike, picket, boycott, agitate, lobby or indulge in any of the militant demands for higher wages that mark the activity of labor during this generation.

They are the post office clerks, civil service employes of the United States government.

For 17 years this able, conscientious and hard-working unit of labor has watched living costs rise and wage schedules skyrocket, without a compensating increase in their pay.

Their only recourse is to petition the congress, to hope and wait for favorable action.

The petition has been made, in the form of H. R. 6486, introduced by Congressman Martin Sweeney of Ohio.

The waiting undergone since January 28, when the bill was introduced.

The hope entertained since the measure was referred to the house committee on postoffices and post roads.

But the committee has not yet considered the matter.

No report has been made, favorable or unfavorable.

No indications, in fact, made as to whether the committee may take it up, if at all.

While H. R. 6486 thus knocks in vain at the door of congressional favor, H. R. 1057, another measure providing increased seniority pay for certain higher grades of postal employes, is having better luck.

The conference committee has agreed on the proper legislation and the proposal is assumed soon to receive senatorial benison.

Equality demands that the same consideration be given H. R. 6468, which is more general in scope.

Persistence in neglecting or ignoring this bill would be deplorable callousness in a congress that talks so well about "social advances" and reacts with such alacrity to labor's demands for a greater share of the profit dollar.

The post office clerks also are labor; labor that has actually earned and is entitled to a raise.

They have lawfully and in courteous due form presented their case.

Their work and their loyalty in it are vital to the country's communications.

They are highly trained, markedly devoted and hard to replace.

All these reasons, pointed by the additional circumstance of their deference and reticence, makes favorable action on their claim a clear matter of justice and equity.

To pass the bill is only fair play and wise economy.

Bitter Pills for Axis



The Brighter Side

LOS ANGELES, April 2.—A slim young Japanese in the uniform of a private of the United States army was helping his father and mother load a truck with household goods on San Pedro street in Los Angeles. "Little Tokyo" the other afternoon. The soldier was an American-born youth, drawn into the army in the draft, the parents aliens under evacuation orders. The population of the district, once the largest Japanese colony in the United States, is rapidly thinning out. On every hand there is the huffe and scuffle of packing and moving. Even the furnishings of a Buddhist temple, a nice looking brick building in North Central street, were being carried out and put in trucks the day we were there. In the windows of all the Japanese stores were big signs reading "Closing Sales" and inside crowds of Americans, Mexicans and Filipinos were taking advantage of the bargains. There did not appear to be many Japanese buyers. Little Japanese children played on the sidewalks of the sunny streets, one small boy on a tricycle towing another boy, and two tiny girls around with iron wheels. "I wish I could laugh."

Letters to the Editor

Editor, The Light: This is in answer to your "Around the Plaza" of Sunday, March 15. Aside from all other considerations, we are denying our young men the most uplifting force a man can have—the responsibility of fatherhood. A man in discussing your article said: "I have a boy in the army. I want him to marry. Nothing makes a man try to walk straight like having a son to look up to dad as a hero." They say marriage weakens the morale of the soldier. General Douglas MacArthur has a wife and son with him. Colin Kelly had a wife and son. O'Hara had a wife. Was their morale weakened? Isn't the trouble more the question of money. Money in two ways—the small pay of privates and the fear of pensions? But have we not a congress that could change both? "Young Soldier, marry your sweetheart before you leave our shores. This country is rich enough to care for you and yours." AN AMERICAN MOTHER. Editor, The Light: Although I am only a minute part of the great American machine, I am deeply concerned over the seeming indifference of many of our people whose selfish desire for luxury and comfort in our present problem only increases its magnitude. To begin with, I've been wondering what would happen to the morale of MacArthur's men if they learned of the quibbling over the number of hours our factories and laborers should work to supply them with the proper equipment. Could they continue to face the cold steel of the invader? Could they continue to push forward against such odds, even though their faith in those back home should be shattered? Could they continue to champion the cause of liberty, justice and equality in the face of such indifferent selfishness? In the end, could America be victorious? Each and every American should realize how easy it would be to conquer Japan, if the Japanese fac-

News Behind the News

Washington—The Nazi Blitz-General List arrived in the north quietly a few days back, just about the time the soothsayers of the Swedish press were concluding Hitler would not invade them this season. List has never been known as a sightseer or ski fancier, but is the tank general who ravaged France, Yugoslavia and Greece with speed unprecedented before in warfare. He is the Nazi lightning-caster although he did not cast very much in Russia. Sweden, of course, does not merit such high-class military attention. A Nazi sweep in from Norway, coupled with landings near Denmark and Germany at Malmo and Trollero, should duplicate the Norwegian job with the use of no more than 10 or 12 German divisions. Sweden, while promising now a hard fight, is not known to have the military wherewithal for formidable resistance against a force of 150,000 or more. Thus is the familiar pattern of conquest being laid. First diplomatic pressure, then suppression of newspapers, then visits from German officials, now from a blitz general. All the while propaganda has been circulated to make the Swedes fear a Russian victory and conquest from that quarter, if Germany loses. Finally now there has come the lull of security, which means the time is ripe for lightning. Few here were impressed with the threat to Sweden when discussions were warm in the press a week or so ago. There is not much for Hitler to gain there. He is getting the iron ore and some other materials. It is true this limits him to his present share, but that seems to be enough. Some see military advantage for him in the strengthening of his Finnish and Norwegian positions. If he takes Sweden, but this would not be worth the effort involved. Sweden is just another easy victory lying around loose at a time when Nazi victories are getting fewer and harder. The thaw is now on at the Ukrainian front in South Russia. Within a week or two, the roads will be good for tanks. In fact, Hitler could have started before this if he intended to keep his old military pace. If the weather has not delayed him, what has? Is he holding back the leash on the great force he has amassed at the Southern Russian front in order to time that drive with something else? Just about this time every year, der fuhrer disgorges what he likes to call a surprise. In 1940 it was Norway; last year, Yugoslavia and Greece. It is inconceivable that he has been consulting the muses all winter without indulging his penchant for surprises. The South Russian drive might bear more world weight if coupled with occupation of Sweden, but particularly if timed with a Jap attack on Vindivostok. The Japs have not reinforced their Pacific armies lately. No more, storming transports have been discovered moving toward Java or Guinea. In fact, the New Guinea drive has bogged down in a flood in the jungles halfway to Port Moresby from Lae and Salamaua (on the north shore of the peninsula). The Japs there have barely enough forces to take Port Moresby (which they no doubt will do eventually), but not enough to go ahead from there into Australia. It is doubtful also whether they have enough in Java, for further conquest. Consequently a question is arising as to when or whether the Japs intend to move at Darwin. From bases at Timor and elsewhere they can continue bombing so General MacArthur will be unable to maintain formidable airfields along the north coast for attacks on them. They may figure this is enough and not even attempt landing on Australian soil. Suspicious Jap troop movements have been noted north of Nanking, indicating reinforcement of the northern front. It is just possible these troops are destined for Manchukuo and spring action against Vindivostok. Thaws should start in about two weeks on the Moscow central front, but the muddy period generally lasts much longer there than in the south. It may be six to eight weeks yet before the fighting terrain is good in the area. But no one here can see the possibility that Hitler's annual spring operation will break there. He needs oil. It lies a few miles ahead of him on the Ukrainian front. Unless he gets it this summer, he will have a hard time going through another winter. Importance of oil to the Nazis has been stressed so often, and Hitler has so frequently found a way out, that the subject has lost its vital significance to many people. He seized supplies in Holland, Belgium and France, and then acquired the Rumanian fields, to skip the oily grave which so many experts had dug for him. But there are no more supplies to be confiscated, and the Rumanian fields cannot support indefinitely the extended kind of war he has been forced to in Russia. Therefore the Near East must be his main objective, or he must find a magician who can make oil out of logs. (Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc. Reproduction in Whole or in Part Strictly Prohibited.)

March of Events

An American soldier, Martin Treptow, fell at Chateau-Fligny in 1918. Martin kept a diary. In this diary, found on his body, was this entry: "America must win this war. Therefore I will work; I will save; I will sacrifice; I will endure; I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the whole struggle depended on me alone." The last nine words of the above strike me as being a more potent aid to victory than "Remember Pearl Harbor." If every American, whether in the service, doing civilian duty or supporting the country through the purchase of defense bonds and stamps, were to act and think "as if the whole struggle depended on me alone" there would be no question about the final, decisive and quick annihilation of both Nazi Germany and honorable Japan. Martin Treptow had reached, whether he knew it or not, the very peak of Americanism. Americanism in its fundamental and its essential nature is individualism. It is each one of us "on his own." It is each one of us as a single responsible unit of value. Martin Treptow thus conceived himself. He had resolved to do what he could do as if no other American existed, as if there were no generals, captains or colonels. He, Martin Treptow, would, like a new St. George, alone slay the dragon of German militarism. That's the spirit, that's the soul of the free man—the of the ultimate American; self-reliance, "me alone!" How many Martin Treptows are there in the United States now—men and women who are giving, without thought of what anyone else is giving, every ounce of their being to the winning of this war? Capt. Colin Kelly and General MacArthur are glorious disciples of Martin Treptow. One fought and the other is fighting as if they "alone" are going to lick Japan! Of such is the kingdom of freedom! Of such is the Valhalla of victory! One of the most dishonest customs ever maintained by a legislative body of a free democracy is the custom of tagging on to important bills "riders," "sleepers" and slide amendments, knowing that the president cannot veto the "rider" or "sleeper" without vetoing the whole bill, which may be of an urgent matter to the nation. This is dishonest. It is nothing less than gangster legislation, government by "stick-up." The president is told by congress: "Take what we send you—or else." Many efforts have been made to give the president power to veto separate items on a bill without endangering the bill as a whole. In fact, in 1873 President Grant pro-

Air Swallowing

It seems quite certain that most all of the gas in the stomach and bowel is swallowed air, in the opinion of Dr. Stelze B. Blackford of the University of Virginia hospital. Under normal circumstances, a small amount of air enters the stomach with swallowing. There is probably always a little amount of air in the mouth which is swallowed along with the food liquids and solids. There are many foods which have air whipped up into them to make them lighter, and then, of course, carbonated beverages contain a great deal of compressed gas which is released in the stomach. These things as a rule cause no discomfort. But there are some persons who swallow an excessive amount of air. Incidentally, there is a right way to swallow that these "air swallowers" may easily learn, according to Dr. Blackford. He suggests that to swallow properly, the lips should be kept closed and the tongue pressed firmly against the roof of the mouth. By this method any excessive air is expelled upward through the nose. Inability to swallow properly may occur from faulty habits, such as eating too fast. This is especially liable to occur in nervous persons. As a result of the improper swallowing a great deal of gas gets into the stomach. This produces an after-meal feeling of discomfort in the pit of the stomach. Then the person feels that he could get relief if he could belch. Thus, many persons try to force a belch, and in order to accomplish this they suck in a little more air and swallow it. When belching occurs, a feeling of relief is obtained. The swallowing of air and the belching then go on in a vicious circle. If the air is not belched, it passes on into the in-

Those Texans

Soldiers in training today in San Antonio and vicinity can take a mite of comfort, if they are inclined to chafe at times under restrictive local leave regulations and curfew laws by glancing back a few years to the plight of the young men who soldiered here in '99. Teddy Roosevelt, full of enthusiasm and carefully laid plans for the organization of the Rough Riders, arrived in San Antonio in May personally to put the boys through their paces. There were 800 horses on hand, each less than 8 years old and at least 51 inches high. By the second week in May most of the men had arrived, from the elite precincts of New York's Murray Hill section to the great plain regions of Texas, the West and Southwest. Training regulations were severe. So were those governing recreation. The Rough Riders, quartered at the old Exposition grounds in Riverside park, were allowed little leeway to stray from their reservation. Such things as leaves in the city were practically unknown. From camp until sundown, the boys had their hands full of rifles, equipment, horses and countless military duties that had to be learned if the outfit was ever to be whipped into shape for foreign service. That objective, after all, was everyone's personal and private and individual goal. When Col. Leonard Wood arrived to assume charge, he told newspaper reporters: "This war will last at least three months." Then, answering another question: "No, the boys won't be mustered out by then." Nor were they. Thanks to the iron regiment, the Rough Riders were ready and rarin' to go when the time arrived. With a wild demonstration as a send-off, they entrained May 28 for Tampa and thence to the scenes of their future military prowess in Cuba.

MARRY-GO-ROUND By Helen Rowland

10 AND 20 YEARS AGO From S. A. Light Files

APRIL 2, 1922. Shelby Kritzer, 17-year-old winner of The Light's recent aviation contest, stepped into the fast Downer Lockheed ship and was whisked to Fort Worth for the first leg of the 2800-mile flight to Detroit this afternoon. APRIL 2, 1922. Food costs at retail continued to decrease in all of the 16 principal American cities, where observations are made by the labor department, during the month ending March 15.