

AWAKE!

HUMANITY AT THE CROSSROADS

Appalling plight into which sixty centuries of religion,
politics and commerce has dumped the world

China's Tottering Economy

Propped up by American aid and by currency reform

What About Painless Childbirth?

Variety of methods, with variety of consequences

Crows, Shrewd Rascals with Big Hearts

Praised by some, cursed by more,
he's not as black as he's painted



OCTOBER 22, 1948 SEMIMONTHLY

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CONTENTS

Humanity at the Crossroads	3	Religious Notes	16
Stupendous Divisive Forces	4	What About Painless Childbirth?	17
Distress of Nations	5	Dopes, Drugs and Anesthetics	17
Degradation of Democracy	6	Crows, Shrewd Rascals with Big Hearts	20
Religion No Unifier	7	The Amusing Side of Crows	21
China's Tottering Economy	9	Community Life in Crowds	22
New Currency Reform Plan	9	Cat-and-Canary Murders	24
Staggering Under the War Load	10	"Thy Word Is Truth"	
Tax Evasion	11	Why Must Messiah Die Before His Glory?	25
Dangers of Blood Transfusion	12	Speak to Be Understood	27
Gum-Chewing, Vice or Virtue?	13	Gilead's Twelfth Class	28
From Jungle to Candy Counter	14	Watching the World	29

AWAKE!

"Now it is high time to awake."—Romans 13:11

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HUMANITY AT THE CROSSROADS

THIS postwar world looks fearfully toward the storms of political crisis that hang black and heavy over the international horizon. The wise men of Christendom cry "peace, peace!" when there is no peace, and the sound of their voices goes out to an embittered world and comes back to mock them when all their fine words and bright promises return unto them void. The bitter cries of the discontented masses rise from every land under heaven, and all the fond hopes for the 'brave new world' to be fashioned by men's hands have been dashed to the ground; while hundreds of millions of disillusioned peoples harden their hearts and gnash their teeth at this colossal failure of human government in this stricken generation.

For three years now the scarred, crippled nations have been trying to bind up their terrible wounds, erase the horrible memories of war, and seek a future of stability, prosperity, and peace. But the tremendous repercussions of this atomic age have driven men into frenzied apprehension of the fearful things they see coming upon the earth. World leaders no longer sit in their ivory towers with serene smiles and folded hands, secure in their splendid isolation. Seeing the unmistakable signs of world chaos, and frantic with fear of the dark specter of world-wide anarchy, they cry out in desperation:

'Gather yourselves together, you bewildered peoples of the earth. The foun-

dations of Christian civilization must not crumble. The human race must not annihilate itself. With the fate of mankind hanging in the balance, now is the time to hasten with your tribute and lay them at the feet of the greatest idol man has ever reared in all his history—this United Nations organization. Place your trust and your hopes in it, even for generations yet unborn. Give this idol your moral, your intellectual, your financial and political support. Let this United States of the World be the crowning achievement in the history of civilization. It is our last chance, our only hope for peace.'

Ravages of War

As men listen to that clarion call to inter-faith action and political unity for self-preservation, the terrible happenings of the recent past burn in their memories. For men remember that in the twenty-year prolonged armistice that followed World War I human rights were swept aside under the violent upheaval of international depressions, disharmony, disagreement, and civil wars that spawned so many ruthless dictators. Human life was the cheapest commodity on the market. Small nations were sacrificed and sold into slavery on the auction block of international diplomacy to feed the insatiable greed of the power-hungry Big States, until the peoples of earth were split apart politically and socially, and the giant conflagration of a second

world war became a titanic struggle for the survival of the fittest in the gore of battlefields stretching around the earth.

All this was visited upon mankind because the nations were divided within and among themselves; they could not trust each other; they could not live together as peaceful neighbors. Economic oppression bore heavily on the backs of the whole groaning human creation, and men cried for deliverance from the religious intolerance and political terrorism that reigned in the earth. All nations were racked with suspicion, criminal intent and conspiracy, which within one generation raised up a convulsive whirlwind of political and social revolution that threw class against class, nation against nation, continent against continent. *Great cities* were gutted and pounded into the face of the earth. Bombs rained from the skies upon defenseless men, women, and children. Millions poured out their lifeblood to defend and preserve their way of life. But that was only the beginning of sorrows. Five hundred million people are today foraging for food like wild beasts; and disease, the silent killer, rising from the ruins of war and in the wake of international famine and malnutrition, is taking a devastating toll of human life.

The war seems to have settled nothing. The victors are as disorganized as the vanquished, and erstwhile allies quarreling over the spoils and the plunder threaten to blow each other to bits in a suicidal third world war. The poison pens of propaganda are today more decisive than the bloody weapons of war, while the human race sinks still deeper in the muck and mire of its appalling ignorance of the great signs of the times. Day by day the forces of evil grow worse, and the blind follow the blind wheresoever the promptings of the moment lead them.

So it is that all mankind has come to the *fateful hour of decision*. Humanity is at the crossroads from which there is no

turning back. Time is swiftly running out, and the question of world unity, the vital need for it, day and night racks the brains of the *religious prophets*, political master-minds, and commercial overlords of the earth. Indubitably, the day for choosing is here. But frantic men know not which way to go, and they continue to grope blindly in indecision and perplexity, trying to pierce the future and accurately determine the shape of things to come. And while they ponder their "rendezvous with destiny", many are the roads that lead off into the gross darkness that enshrouds the whole earth; each with its own insistent propaganda, its panaceas, its familiar signposts.

Here at the crossroads to which sixty centuries of religion, politics and commerce has brought them, the desperate peoples of the world look hopefully to the 58 nations of the United Nations that are bound together in a solemn covenant to outlaw war and insure lasting peace and *domestic tranquility within and among all the countries of the earth*. But fervent hope is mingled with doubt and suspicion. People are asking questions when the utter futility of *all human effort* toward international security and peace is so shockingly demonstrated in failure after failure.

Stupendous Divisive Forces

What can be done about the centuries-old political, social and ethical traditions of nations that *divide country against country*? Specifically, what can be done about the great barriers of language, religious differences, and social customs, yes, even the inborn racial instincts and characteristics that separate mankind into classes and castes, throwing race against race in open antagonism? What can be done about the four hundred million people of India and Pakistan that are dangerously restless, conspiring, filled with the venom of racial hatred and religious intolerance, and on the verge of communal riots and fratricidal war

that could drench that subcontinent in blood? What can be done about the battered people of China, five hundred million exploited human creatures, politically divided between the Communist juggernaut and the crushing tyranny of Fascist Chiang Kai-shek?

What can be done about 1,300,000,000 persons in Asia and Africa, generation after generation living as beggars, for centuries, indescribably poverty-stricken, hundreds of millions of these people in chattel slavery, and divided against each other in violent confusion over countless forms of pagan religious worship—religious forces loaded with a greater potential danger to world peace than all political factions combined? What can be done about the caste system that elevates one class far above the other in India, Burma, China, Japan, other parts of the Far East, and the Pacific isles?

Consider the seething caldron that is Europe today, five hundred million people divided among contending nationalistic governments and hostile factions, where intrigue in high places, sly diplomacy in foreign offices, espionage and rabid revolutionary elements threaten to explode the powder keg mislabeled "Western Civilization". Western Europe professedly crusades for world peace, but the unerring facts of history condemn its peace-making powers. It is saturated with those reactionary elements, political and religious, that sold out to the Nazis and Fascists during World War II; reactionary elements whose philosophy is that a master class is predestined to rule over a slave class and take the fruits of other men's labor.

Now ponder still another cause of world perplexity and distress. This war-gutted earth is honeycombed with hundreds of church systems claiming millions of members. Look at the hundreds of millions of Shintoists, Taoists, Confucians, Hindus, Buddhists, and Moslems. They comprise more than half the

human race. Look at the Jews divided among Orthodox, Reform, and Karaite Judaism. Look at the two major divisions in the Catholic church system: 340,000,000 Roman Catholics religiously and politically opposed to 128,000,000 Eastern Orthodox Catholics, and *vice versa*. Look at the senseless confusion in haphazard Protestantism. In the United States alone there are 256 different religious denominations, each claiming to be the true church. Not only are these hundreds of different religious systems—Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and heathen—divided in teaching, doctrine, and ritual, but the laity, yes, even fellow members of the same "church" are also divided in politics, divided over domestic and international issues, divided between the opposing claims of Capital and Labor, divided over Fascism, divided over Communism, divided over Democracy, divided in war, divided in peace. And in actual practice they worship literally hundreds of conflicting "gods".

The misnamed "Christian" churches, like their heathen kin, have never hesitated to divide themselves over political differences between their respective nations, even to the extent of slaughtering each other on the battlefields of the world. Thus have they demonstrated to all mankind that their allegiance to the kingdoms of this world is far stronger than their much professed love for God and Christ.

Distress of Nations

Of the major powers now setting themselves to the brain-racking work of maintaining at least a modicum of peace, the political, military and revolutionary forces of Communist Russia are straddling the continent of Europe, and 192,000,000 Russians labor under the ominous shadow of the Kremlin. Ninety million people in eastern Europe languish in the mammoth police state of Soviet power, and Russian communism has extended its political and economic hegem-

ony over Poland, eastern Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Yugoslavia, and Albania. The Bolsheviks are steadily gaining strength in Spain, Italy, France, and Greece; they are awaiting the propitious moment to rise up with crushing power and declare themselves the masters of all Europe.

We see in England a country politically created from the blueprint of the Protestant Reformation of four centuries ago; the same England that has stood for four hundred years as the bastion against Roman Catholic control of the earth. But it is an England now weakened from the ravages of war, battle-scarred, and writhing in the throes of internal unrest. It is an England envious of the overshadowing influence of America; an England attempting to retrieve its world balance of power, but forced to relinquish the political dominance of its great dominions sprawled over the face of the earth. The British Empire, mightiest in human history, is shrinking; and the great contending forces of the United States and Russia are rushing to fill the vacuum in the mad race to world supremacy.

We behold in France a nation humiliated by the armies of Catholic Hitler; a nation rife with sedition, torn by political dissension, pressed between the militant Communists and the intransigent Fascists. Here is a country betrayed to the Nazis eight years ago by the French Catholic Hierarchy and their political minions, including Catholic Marshal Petain and Jesuit Marshal Weygand. Here is a divided nation whose own military, political and religious leaders treasonably turned against their fellow countrymen, capitulated to the Germans, and thereafter willingly and willfully deported hundreds of thousands of the common people of France to toil in the Nazi slave-labor camps. Here is a country scourged for centuries in the bloody battles for supremacy between Catholic

and Protestant forces, and the same hatred and viciousness still rankles in the breasts of Frenchmen on both sides, even though for the present time such feeling is forcibly restrained.

Turning to the Western Hemisphere, we see the United States towering as the colossus of the Americas, and widely advertised as the "arsenal of democracy", the land where 'liberty enlightens the world', the 'last hope and great defender of the rights and dignity of man against the barbarism of godless Communism and international anarchy', "the land of the free and the home of the brave." But in too many cases these boastful claims do not agree with the uncompromising facts.

Degradation of Democracy

Everywhere one looks in America there is greed and oppression. Vast numbers of the younger generation are fast becoming juvenile delinquents. Terrible slums are eating out the heart of the greatest cities in the land. Half the people in the United States do not enjoy decent standards of living. One-third of the people are ill-fed, ill-housed, and ill-clothed. Millions of the colored race and "poor whites" are in virtual peonage, eking out a miserable existence all the days of their lives. The cost of living has soared to the highest point in the history of America, far outstripping the best wages of the laboring man. All over this country there are strikes and rumors of strikes. The labor unions are split politically.

The third party movement of Henry Wallace, trying to bring in "the century of the common man", threatens to send Harry Truman back to Missouri, and to elect a Republican president. The president shouts that the Eightieth Congress is the 'worst in history', and members of that Congress retaliate by branding Truman the 'worst president'. The emissaries of Wall Street and Big Business, in an unholy coalition with military leaders and the American Catholic Hierarchy,

are determining the foreign policy of America for "the little man in the big chair", who vacillates between interminable fiascos. The Red demons of Bolshevism strike such terror in the jittery hearts and send so many cold chills down the spines of Congressional committees investigating un-American activities that even a youthful peddler of pink lemonade is a likely suspect for the Thomas Inquisition.

Senile "elder statesmen", aided and abetted by armchair strategists and the loud-mouthed element of the American Legionnaires, whisper sagely in Truman's ear that the way to preserve peace is to prepare for war. So, the American government in its contradictory policies spends billions for European aid ostensibly to keep the peace, but at the same time a vastly greater sum will be expended in preparation for war. But the Truman administration does not share the blame alone. The Republican party has done everything in its power to whip the common people into a frenzy over the Communist bogey. The Eightieth Congress, dominated by the Republicans, has in some instances been even more war-minded than Truman. They know that whoever shouts the most against Communism is certain to attract the Catholic vote, and become also the hired puppet of Big Business. It should be remembered that Republicans in the national House of Representatives recently voted overwhelmingly to give economic aid to Franco Fascist Spain, and it was only the weight of public opinion that forced them to recant.

So this is the appalling degradation of democracy at this most critical hour in its history. Willful political leaders of the democratic nations, jockeying for power, are buying the Catholic Hierarchy's favor at the price of human liberty; and they are aided by a supine Protestantism that has lost the moral courage to protest unitedly against the desecration of democratic ideals, the un-

official union of church and state, the undermining of democracy under the deceiving guise of an anti-Communist world propaganda. The astute papacy, working with the active support of an anemic world press too well bought and too cowardly to expose the international Catholic Fifth Column, now makes bold to come out in the open and spark a Western world "holy war" against the East. Ironically, the democratic nations are being used by the Catholic Hierarchy to supply the strong arm of power for a crusade which has as its final objective the destruction of democracy everywhere.

Now weigh the evidence. The mightiest of the member nations of the U. N.—America, Russia, Britain, France—themselves rent by civil strife, and politically, religiously and socially divided within and among themselves, must take the lead in the global work of world unity. It is living proof that man is totally unable to underwrite the peace and bring about a united world.

Religion No Unifier

Now comes the Roman Catholic Church proclaiming herself the fount of "Christian civilization", the caretaker of the traditions of the Western world, the great peacemaker, the protector and champion of the common man. But as you listen to the siren song of this religious singer who croons sweetly of herself as the guardian of peace, the beloved of God, and the one source of unity in the earth, just look behind her pious pretensions and see the bald facts that brand her as the most prolific falsifier in human history. Look at the divisions and the misery in the lands where she has ruled. Look at the political and religious support she gave Catholic Hitler, Catholic Mussolini, Catholic Franco, and Catholic Petain. Look at starving Italy under its present Catholic leadership masquerading under the misnomer "Christian Democrats"; a Catholic lead-

ership whom the United States has taken to its bosom to mother and protect them from the rampaging Reds.

In recent years the Catholic Church has warned Protestant missionaries to stay out of South America. She wishes to keep it a Catholic domain, where for generations the nations have been torn by civil wars, Catholic butchering Catholic, assassination following assassination. In these South American countries, as in the benighted lands of Spain and Poland, the big Catholic prelates and nuncios hand in hand with feudalistic landlords and industrialists have shoved the faces of the common people in the dust, worked them like brute beasts, and have taken to themselves the fruits of the unrequited toil of the laboring man, until the groaning masses rue the day they were born into the human race.

But that is not all; not by any means. Some 340,000,000 Roman Catholics in five continents have been arrayed against each other in two world wars. German Catholics have marched to the battlefields to kill American Catholics, who retaliated in the same bloody fashion. Italian Catholics have fought against, then with, and once more against German Catholics. French Catholics warred against German and Italian Catholics. Millions of other European Catholics divided themselves into warring factions and ranged themselves on both sides in both world wars, slaughtering each other without pity or remorse. But, at the same time, they all paid homage to the Roman Catholic Church—the very church that in the face of such violent disunity among her own subjects still has the unmitigated gall to pose before the nations as the sweet keeper of peace whose own house is in perfect order!

With all this, it is an appalling spectacle to behold the mighty nations that claim to be "Christian" staggering drunkenly from one experimental political binge to another, trying to drown their sorrows with a blended brew of

politics and religion, trying to forget the blood and the carnage of two world wars that erupted within one generation. Look at *demoralized Christendom wallowing* in the slime of her own religious pollutions, and caught in a miasma of crooked politics that stink to high heaven. Truly, she wears the smell of death; she is diseased and full of sores from the virulent social ills that afflict her, and the wisest fools in politics, commerce and religion can not heal her, nor wash away her bloodstains, nor soothe her tortured conscience that screams in this night-time of trouble, confessing her guilt in the millions of her people that she has sent to the slaughter pits of the world in the name of the "Christian religion".

Now that the mighty upsurge of Communism is convulsing the world; now that the spasms of postwar readjustment have seized the nations with an agony of social travail and abortive political schemes, bewildered mankind cries for "more religion" to sponge out the horrors of the past and the sufferings of the present. The people plead for religion as a sedative for the screaming nerves. They beg for it to palliate the mind plagued with guilt, in the same way and for the same reason that a drug addict must have his dope to make himself deliriously oblivious of the sordid world in which he lives, to let him escape the harsh realities of his miserable life.

But persons of good-will who see democracy dying in the earth can make a momentous choice as they stand at the fateful crossroads, facing the inevitable hour of decision. There is a way of escape. Not decayed religion, but true Christianity. Harken to the ancient prophecy from Jehovah God that points to the final end of this world:

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed . . . but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." (Daniel 2:44)—Contributed.

China's TOTTERING ECONOMY

**Propped Up by American Aid
and by Currency Reform**



WAR and prosperity seldom go hand in hand, as is evidenced in the case of China. Fighting a seemingly endless war with Communists has drained away the prosperity of the nation, until today China is facing economic collapse. Many nations are watching the deteriorating condition in China and they are anxious that there should be no collapse, because such would almost certainly be followed by complete Communist domination of China and eventually the whole of the far east of Asia. Such a possibility has prompted the United States to extend aid to the national government so that it can continue its fight against the Communists with the hope ultimately of complete victory.

The China Aid Agreement was signed between the two countries in Nanking on July 3, 1948. The aim of the agreement is stated as "to help the speedy achievement of internal peace and economic stability in China". The total amount of the aid is \$400,000,000, of which \$275,000,000 is for economic assistance and \$125,000,000 for military purposes. These sums will not be repaid by China, but are provided in the nature of a gift. The whole of the aid fund is to be used during the period from April 3, 1948, to April 3, 1949.

According to the terms of the agreement, China in turn is obligated to take full measures to stabilize her currency, to make full use of assets in the United States belonging to Chinese nationals, and to co-ordinate her own effort with the aid program by promoting home production and the improvement of foreign trade. Hence, in effect, the agreement calls for maximum of self-help on the part of China plus American aid.

It is on the point of self-help that the Chinese government has been woefully lax in the past. The present plight of China is largely due to inefficiency, looseness and corruption in the handling of the national affairs, and no real effort has been made to remedy the worsening economic and military situation. Consequently there is much skepticism over the national government's ability to apply the new aid funds efficiently and honestly. Confidence is lacking in the government's willingness to make and carry out plans for self-help, and it is realized that without planned government action the aid will accomplish no real good and will be wasted.

New Currency Reform Plan

However, on August 20, 1948, the National government took a bold, business-like step and announced a new currency reform plan, the most thoroughgoing plan China has made in the past decade. The plan provides for a new currency called "Gold Yuan", to replace the old National currency, which had depreciated to such an extent as to become worthless. The conversion of the old currency to the new is set at CN\$3,000,000 to GY\$1, and the foreign exchange rate is to be set at GY\$4 to US\$1.

Additionally, the reform measure calls for the surrender of the large amount of foreign currency and gold held by private individuals, in exchange for the new gold yuan notes. All foreign assets of Chinese nationals must be registered

with the government, so that this wealth now lying in foreign banks may be utilized for the national effort. Figuring that their wealth would not last long if left in China, the rich have transferred approximately US\$500,000,000 to United States banks, and so far the National government has failed to get its fingers upon the cash, or even precise information about it. Now by law these assets must be registered.

The new reform measures came as a surprise, since few people credited the national government with possessing such initiative. Reaction varied from mild optimism to unconcealed skepticism, and the general view seemed to be that the plan looked good in theory, but will the government see to it that the plan works in actual practice?

China's currency inflation is the highest of any nation on earth, and it has been brought about largely because of the civil war. China cannot pay for such a long, costly war. Her expenditure is always very much in excess of her receipts in taxes, etc.; hence China is never able to balance the national budget. The national government has resorted to the use of the printing presses to print more paper money to pay her way. In this way China has paid her soldiers and civil servants and bought her materials, but only at the cost of a terrific flood of paper money which has been losing value daily, until at this writing CN\$12,000,000 is equal to one United States dollar.

Obviously, to halt China's inflation it is essential to stop printing any more paper money. Means must be found to increase revenue so that the budget can be balanced in a regular manner. Under the aid program the national government will receive very large quantities of goods which it will sell on the home and foreign markets, and some of the cash received will go toward balancing the budget. Additionally, a thorough reform must be made in the assessment and collecting of taxes, which at the

present time are ridiculously small. If these points are handled wisely, and the new currency stabilized, then all commitments will be met without having to print more money, and an effective brake will have been put on the inflation, and a way opened toward better economic conditions.

The question now in the minds of the people is, Will the new currency remain stable in value, or devalue like the old? The government gives assurance that the paper gold yuan note will have a 100-percent backing of gold. But people who have foreign currency and gold are hesitant to part with it in exchange for the new gold yuan because they are not too sure in their mind that this backing really does exist. If they once change all their wealth into the new notes and then there is a devaluation, then it would reduce them to poverty and ruin. The matter of the people's co-operation with the government in the new currency measures is highly important to its success, and it depends solely on how the government pegs down the gold yuan. The people must believe that the new money is worth possessing. In the past the national currency has been considered more or less as a joke because of its inflation, but now the gold yuan must be made respectable.

Staggering Under the War Load

American aid of US\$125,000,000 to "help the speedy achievement of internal peace" will enable the Chinese government to purchase equipment abroad, but it will still leave the nation the great burden of financing the war. China possesses a very large and costly army which has been losing the war with the Communists. During the past year the army has lost the initiative to the Communists, and now they are spread out and glued down in defense against a determined and aggressive enemy. This ineffective army is by far the largest drain on the national treasury, and, until the

war is over and the army demobilized, China cannot hope for prosperity.

A large part of the Chinese army exists on the pay rolls only, and these help to boost up the salaries of the generals. Of the soldiers who actually exist, only a small percentage can be classified as effective fighting personnel. Militarily as well as financially the army will remain a liability unless there are drastic reforms, especially in a nose-counting method of pay, and in giving the soldiers better training, better pay and better all-round conditions. Until there is reform, American aid will fail to turn the tide of the war and will be just wasted, probably ending up in the hands of the Communists.

To put into effect all these reform programs is probably the most difficult task of all in China. There is a crying need for reform from the top of the nation to the bottom. In the government, selfish cliques have always bitterly resisted honest reform measures, their idea of reform being the elimination of their opposing clique. In the army generals acting more like warlords have been a law unto themselves. Of the 35 provinces in China, at least 26 have military men as governors, and these hold practically dictatorial powers in their province above the civil officers. The number of civil servants is much higher than need be, and practically all are underpaid; hence, in order to live, they turn to dishonest methods and graft. Reform would mean fewer civil servants and better pay. Then, no doubt, there would be more efficiency and less corruption.

Tax Evasion

On the matter of tax collection, it is an open secret that there is widespread laxity, dishonesty and fraud in the collection of practically every item of taxation, with the possible exception of the customs levy. It is estimated that the Chinese government does not collect

more than 10 percent of the taxes legally due. There is seldom a Chinese business firm that does not in one way or another evade business and income taxes, and the same is true of personal income taxes, and yet all taxes are assessed unusually low. Consequently, the national treasury is always broke, while the rich find living very cheap. Self-help calls for an overhaul of the question of taxation and the methods of collecting taxes. Full and prompt payment of taxes is a reasonable requirement, when one considers the poor state of the nation.

Today the rich and middle classes are quite indifferent to the country's problems. The manner in which reasonable taxes are evaded shows a complete lack of interest in the welfare of the nation. While millions of poor, destitute people are living under the worst conditions of poverty and misery, multimillionaires fight to evade even a low taxation.

And yet the government policy appears to favor the rich. Government subsidies make for cheaper living for the people with the money. For instance, airlines are subsidized which enable the well-to-do to fly from Shanghai to Nanking for the equivalent of one American dollar. Those with the money can still enjoy their cars, and get unlimited supply of cheap gasoline. Luxuries are still available despite halfhearted measures to restrict some goods. The way of life of the average person in Shanghai compares much more favorably than that of the people of London. Whereas an egg for breakfast in London is considered somewhat of a luxury, in Shanghai, if you have the money, you can buy all the eggs you desire; you can even have caviar for breakfast if you desire. Also, the Shanghailanders are not restricted by food rationing in order to save foreign currency; he can get the most sumptuous and wasteful meal in the world any day of the week.

In an effort to make the rich pay a little toward the country's welfare, a

"soak-the-rich" tax has been put into operation in the large cities. But it has been like squeezing milk from a coconut. The method adopted has been to list all the big firms and rich individuals, and to assess a figure of taxation against them. However, the law does not compel them to pay up. They are first asked to pay; and failing, they are pressed, then threatened with public blacklisting by having their names put in the local press. Under such pressure they mostly pay up, but generally not completely.

For Shanghai the quota tax for the period ending August 31, 1948, was CN\$8.5 trillion, but only CN\$4 trillion was expected to be paid. Tientsin was the only city to collect its full quota of CN\$230,000,000,000, a mere US\$23,000, and this only after two months of "persuasion". At first every person involved requested a reduction; but the authorities countered by sending three jeeps full of soldiers and police to visit every one. This show of force with the threat of public blacklisting brought results.

However, it may be that the rich would be more willing to pay up if they were confident their contributions would

be used for the national good, and not just to line the pockets of unscrupulous persons. But one cannot help but see in this tax evasion a sample of the nationwide lack of public-spiritedness.

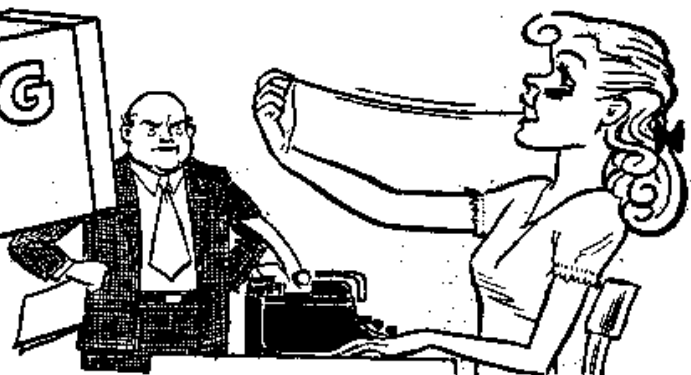
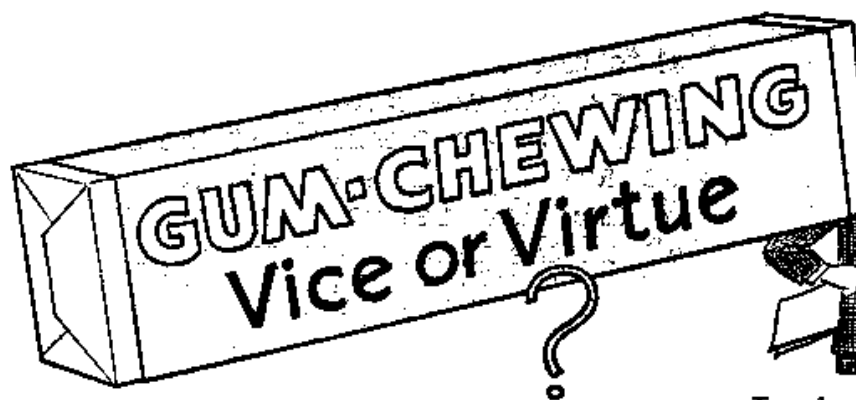
Within the period ending April 3, 1949, all the present aid fund will have been used. During that time all proper steps must be taken by the Chinese themselves in conjunction with the aid. It may well be that the next half year will decide the fate of China one way or the other. *The present measures of currency reform and the utilization of all assets constitute a good, sensible step in the right direction.* Now the question is whether these measures will be consistently followed up, honestly and vigorously, and as to whether the gold yuan will be genuinely protected against devaluation. Judging by past measures of a similar nature taken by the national government, one could only be deeply pessimistic about the results, but in view of the serious consequences upon the nation and its people in the event of a failure, one can only hope that this time it will be different.—*Awake!* correspondent in China.



Dangers of Blood Transfusion

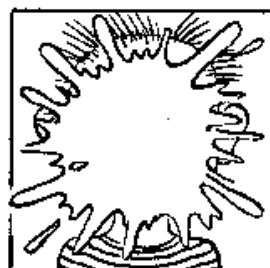
According to God's law, humans are not to take into their system the blood of others. "Whatsoever soul it be that eateth any manner of blood, even that soul shall be cut off from his people." "Thou shalt not eat it; that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee." (Leviticus 7:27; Deuteronomy 12:25) In addition to the danger of disobeying God's law, blood transfusion involves health hazards. *Science Illustrated* for August says, in part:

"There has been some talk lately about the transmission of disease by blood transfusion. . . . The disease in question is a liver disease, hepatitis (also called jaundice). The two forms of virus that cause hepatitis survive transfusion, and, assuming that they are present in the donor's blood, can produce disease in the recipient. This is a very real problem. Dr. Richard B. Capps recently pointed out to the Illinois State Medical Society that there is an appreciable and increasing number of hepatitis carriers, and that, in his investigation, over 20% developed the disease after receiving blood from infected persons. 'The danger of producing the disease from blood transfusions is real and directly proportional to the number of transfusions.' Pooled blood, of course, would make matters worse, since the virus from one carrier in a group of 50 might contaminate the whole pool; and for this reason large-scale pooling of blood cannot be—and is not—practiced at this time."



NO DESCRIPTION of the American people would be complete unless it mentioned their incessant gum-chewing. The habit is "peculiar to the United States" (*Encyclopedia Americana*), is "a strictly American phenomenon built on ballyhoo—and maybe boredom" (*Reader's Digest*), and is probably the country's most costly penny "vice". During the recent war "Any gum, chum?" was the give-away question asked by overseas soldiers that immediately identified them as coming from the nation that consumes seven times as much gum as all the rest of the world put together. If a committee of that august and preponderant body called the United Nations were to investigate this North American habit of gum-chewing, as they are the South American habit of chewing coca leaves, one wonders what freakish facts their report would reveal.

Just when and how this jaw-tiring habit started, no one seems to know. Several theories have been suggested, one being that of Dr. Edwin M. Loeb, ethnologist and anthropologist of the University of California, who divides all races into chewers and non-chewers, the chewers being the ancient Babylonians, Egyptians, Chinese, Polynesians of the Pacific and the South American Indians, while the Africans, Eurasians and the people of India are non-chewers. The first to chew gum as gum, says



Loeb, were the primitive people of Brazil and Peru, who were chewing chicle found in the forests of the Amazon 2,000 years ago. However, the connection between the chicle chewers of the Amazon and those of North America is a comparatively recent one.

Long before the people of the United States ever heard of chicle their tongues and jaws were busy working on the gummy resins that oozed out of the spruce and cherry trees. The sweet gum of the tamarack tree and balsam of Tolu were chewed, and later paraffin wax became popular. The history of chicle-chewing in the States goes back only some eighty years to the time when Thomas Adams, who was experimenting with chicle as a substitute for rubber, began selling chicle pellets as the sensational "snapping and stretching" substitute for paraffin. Then a certain John Colgan took the flavorless chicle, added balsam of tolu, and called it Taffy-Tolu. Peppermint flavor hit the chewing market in the 1880's.

But still there remained one ingredient to be added before the whole nation was seized by the urge to chew, and that was "salesmanship". It was in 1892 that "the greatest huckster of his day", Wm. Wrigley, Jr., began his all-out publicity campaign to put gum in the mouth of every man, woman and child.

The last half century has seen this infantile human "invention" grow up to be

a monstrous industry dominated by three giants: Wrigley's, Beech-Nut and American Chicle. In the depression year of 1930 more than \$60,000,000 was taken out of the people's pockets for this one "necessary luxury". From an annual consumption of 39 sticks per person in 1914 the volume swelled to 130 sticks, and Wrigley's alone boasts of having tickled the people's taste buds with over 113,000,000,000 sticks of the stuff. During this era since 1870, when only the children were gum-chewers, a funny change has taken place. In 1890 *Harper's Magazine* said it was "mainly a female accomplishment", but today it is about equally divided between the sexes and adults far outstrip the juveniles.

From Jungle to Candy Counter

The tropical *Sapota achras* tree, variously known as the sapodilla, naseberry and bully tree, a native of South and Central America, produces a milky juice or latex which is commonly called chicle. It is gathered during the rainy season in a manner similar to that in which the latex from the rubber trees of India and the Far East is collected. Plunging deep into the heavy jungles, thousands of native *chicleros* endure many hazards and hardships, many lose even their lives, in tapping these trees for their milk. If fortunate enough to survive they receive a niggardly sum of \$200 for their labor and suffering.

Starting out, a *chiclero* is able to milk seven or eight trees a day. With his large machete he slashes a number of zigzag grooves in the trunk to a height of twenty-five or thirty feet, to allow the juice to run down and converge in a gourd hung about two feet from the ground. Small trees yield four or five pounds, and large ones as much as fifty pounds of juice. Daily the native makes his rounds collecting the juice from two or three hundred trees, and at the end of a week he boils it down in a huge kettle until it contains about one-third wa-

ter. It is then poured into molds to form 25-pound cakes called *marquetas*, and these are graded, baled and shipped northward to satisfy the never-ending demand of the gum-chewing *Americanos*.

In 1938 over 12,000,000 pounds of these grayish-brown chicle blocks reached the gum-making kitchens of the United States. Here it was first remelted in steam-jacketed kettles and then purified and clarified. Chicle represents only about 20 to 25 percent of the finished gum, the remainder being sweeteners, fillers, flavoring and modifying agents. After these ingredients are mixed together the resulting "dough" is then kneaded on a special mill, rolled out, cut in strips, wrapped and shipped, a trickle of it reaching the ends of the earth.

A few years ago, when Feenamint gum appeared on the market as an easy method of giving children phenolphthalein laxative it was not the first time chewing gum had been medicated. Away back in the last century pepsin was incorporated into gum with the idea of "aiding digestion". Aspirin-containing gum was another fad. For diabetics there is a special gum, called Ditex Peppermint, that contains no sugar or saccharin. As a sweetener it uses hexitol, a form of sorbitol, and is effective because its slow absorption by the blood does not overtax the pancreas. Another medicated gum tried out a few years ago, containing sulfadiazine, was designed for the treatment of sore throats.

Double Bubble Trouble

No chewing creation since the introduction of chicle has caused a greater social uproar than the invention of "bubble gum". When the Fleer Corporation originally brought out their Double Bubble gum, in 1929, they had no idea of its ultimate possibilities. Today there are more than twenty brands. Following the temporary cut-off of supplies during the recent war bubble gum has since made a dramatic comeback, bringing

with it double trouble. At first queues formed to get the limited supplies. Contests were held to crown the king and queen of the biggest bangs and messiest bursts. The bubble of prosperity got bigger and a million dollars a month was taken in.

Not only has bubble gum all the advantages of ordinary gum, for it can be chewed, snapped, stretched and popped; one can smack his lips over its minty taste; and when finished it can be left on the bottom of cafeteria cups and theater seats—but, in addition, it possesses the all-essential capacity of nearly driving parents hysterical. The secret of this unique parent-maddening gum is its hidden elasticity supplied by a special rubber base. By pressing a gob of the gum against the inside of the front teeth and then by gently blowing, a bubble begins to grow until it bursts with a sadistic blast that makes jittery-nerved grandmothers scream. Part of the “fun” lies in the fact that when it pops it may splatter over the face, clothes and hair of the blower or a perfectly innocent passer-by.

It is not surprising that bubble gum has reawakened the older question as to whether gum-chewing is a vice or a virtue. Calling it a vice some say it leads to addiction and enslavement of the whole nation. But this is not true, since gum contains no habit-forming drugs. Actually only 10 percent of Americans buy 75 percent of the output. Some object to their children's chewing solely for esthetic reasons, because it spoils their facial beauty, personal charm and poise. The flapperish show-off that uses the full-volume, open-mouthed jaw-clapping style, and that strings her gum out an arm's length only to lap it in again with her tongue, reminds one of a cud-chewing cow. There are good and bad chewing habits, the same as there are good and bad eating habits, yet this is no reason to prohibit gum-chewing. It is better to train the young to eat properly than to forbid them to eat altogether.

The disposal problem, greater today than ever before, costs theaters, cafeterias and railroads thousands of dollars a year, not to mention the extra worry it imposes on overworked mothers.

On the virtue side of the chewing-gum question the argument goes something like this: “aids digestion,” “whitens teeth,” “increases efficiency,” “helps industrial relations,” “relieves boredom,” “keeps lips young,” “relieves nervous tension” and “corrects bad breath”. Most obviously these claims constitute the propaganda of the powerful gum industry and at best are only half-truths. Any aid to digestion they give is due to the infinitesimal amount of mint and pepsin they contain. As teeth whiteners, the American Dental Association says the ability of gums to remove food particles “has not been demonstrated by carefully controlled evidence”, and certainly they cannot “whiten teeth” in the true sense of the phrase. Experiments conducted at Columbia University seem to show that under certain conditions chewing gum reduces nervous tension from 5 to 15 percent. One thing is certain, says Philip K. Wrigley, “the more nervous people get, the more gum they chew.” Last year's nerve-shattering conditions accounted for a record-breaking gum consumption of 19,000,000,000 sticks. All will agree that chewing gum is a marvelous mask for bad breath. Better to suffer the bad looks of gum-chewers than their suffocating halitosis.

And so it goes, one can continue to chew on the question as to whether gum is a vice or a virtue, for it has both good and bad points. The central thing to remember is that it is an individual matter, one of personal preference and individual taste. It therefore calls for tolerance one toward another. Gum-chewers granted tolerance by non-chewers should likewise show consideration in choosing time and place both in chewing and in disposing of their cud of gum.

Religious Notes

Right to Educate Everyone?

☛ In his encyclical in 1929 Pope Pius XI said that "it is the inalienable right, as well as the indispensable duty of the church, to watch over the entire education of her children, in all institutions, public and private, not merely in regard to the religious instruction there given but in regard to every other branch of learning and every regulation, insofar as religion and morality are concerned". He further asserted that the Catholic Church's "mission to educate extends equally to those outside the fold". —*Latin American News Letter*, November, 1947.

A Gloomy Picture

☛ An Associated Press dispatch, July 28, from London reported: "The gloomy ex-dean of St. Paul's, Dr. W. R. Inge, said today he is convinced after a lifetime in the pulpit that preaching is an unsatisfactory business. 'It is like throwing a bucketful of water over a row of narrow-necked vessels,' he said. 'A drop or two may find its way in here and there.'" Perhaps if the clergymen would give more point to the stream of water more of it would hit the target.

The People Pay

☛ Though rifle-fire from church towers was directed upon citizens of Bogotá during last spring's uprising, the citizens pay back in money. The *New York Times*, July 8, reported: "The Colombian government has presented to papal nuncio Jose Beltrami a residence valued at \$170,000 to replace one destroyed by fire following the political riots of April 9." Were other buildings so generously replaced?

Barbers Frustrate the Devil

☛ Bangkok, Aug. 1 (UP)—Close-cropped hair is more than just the rage in Singhaburi province in Siam. It's a life-saving measure. According to a rumor, the Devil, in a recent conversation with a religious mystic, said he would take the life of every woman in Singhaburi. The sudden and unexplained deaths of several women seemed to confirm the rumor. Women immediately rushed for boyish bobs as a disguise to "cheat the Devil".—*New York Star*.

Value of Prayer

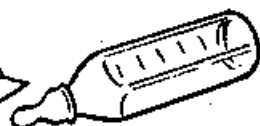
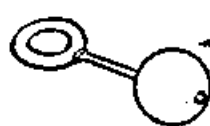
☛ Does prayer bring tangible results? Last week the British Court of Appeals doubted it. A priory of Carmelite nuns had claimed they were entitled to accept a \$20,000 trust fund left to them as a "charitable institution". Their prayers benefited mankind, the nuns argued. Therefore, they were dispensing charity. The court thought not. Said Lord Greene, denying the appeal: "The conception appears . . . unlike anything that has been considered in the past to be a good charity, and it cannot, in my opinion, be justified by any known principles."—*Time* magazine, March 29.

"Divine Mission" Ended

☛ "The man who could not be killed" died last June of heart failure. He was Marin Dajo, a Dutchman, who made his living by demonstrating his invulnerability. He pierced his body with swords and tubes, and even had a rapier driven through his heart. Baffled doctors once made him walk into an X-ray theater. The fluorescent screen showed the rapier actually piercing the heart. Dajo's explanation was that his body was invulnerable, because he was under the hypnotic influence of a divine mission.

More Blood for Another Crusade

☛ During World War II Archbishop Margotti, of Italy, said: "Italy has joined the anti-Bolshevik front with enthusiasm and faith of the ancient crusaders." (*New York Daily News*, July 21, 1941) Recently the pope openly agitated for a bloody crusade against Communism, and again chose Germany as "church sword", as it was during World War II under Catholic Hitler. The *New York Daily News*, September 6, 1948, reported the pope as saying to German Catholics in a radiocast: "If the signs of the times do not deceive, the future may ask even from you your contribution to the independence of the church, and the rights of parents over their children and the choice of their education and schools. In some regions this may even come to a fight to the last drop of blood." The Germans' blood, you of course understand.



What About Painless Childbirth?

"I WILL make your pain at childbirth very great; in pain shall you bear children." That was God's condemning pronouncement of judgment put upon the sinner woman Eve in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 3:16, *An American Translation*) Since then Eve's daughters, born as they are in sin and imperfection, have by nature endured the pangs of that original curse and have, in bringing forth their young, labored and travailed in pain. How best to escape the agonies accompanying motherhood has been a much-discussed subject.

During the nine months following conception many changes take place in the organic constitution of the mother which in turn may be accompanied by many distressing pains, but when the prospective mother reaches the time of her delivery she experiences her greatest suffering, the "pains of labor". The labor period is divided into three stages, the first being ushered in by irregular cramp-like pains caused by contraction of the strong muscular wall of the womb. These growling colic-like pains may continue from four to twenty-four hours or even for several days without harm to mother or child, provided the bag of water in which the baby floats is not broken or lost. This first period of contraction serves to open up and dilate the mouth of the womb.

In the second stage the pains become more frequent, longer in duration and more severe. In fact, it is said by many that the pain would be unendurable were it not for the intermissions between each succeeding wave of muscular contraction. Normally this period lasts somewhat less than two hours, but in the cases

of first-borns or with aging women it may last from two to six hours. It is during this stage that the climax is reached, the water receptacle is broken, and the child is squeezed out through the vagina.

This is followed by a period of quiescence varying from a few minutes to a half hour before the third stage of labor begins. In this final phase more pain and contraction of the uterus is experienced as the afterbirth or placenta, with its network of blood vessels and tissue in which the baby was wrapped and nourished during its nine months of growth, is expelled. This permits the organs of the mother to resume normal position.

That branch of medical science known as obstetrics, that deals with the care of mother and child before and during delivery, is very young compared with the antiquity of childbirth itself. Replacing the primitive superstitions and methods of midwifery obstetricians have greatly reduced the childbirth mortality rate through increased knowledge gained by scientific research. One of their great ambitions has been to discover a totally "painless childbirth" method of delivery that is completely safe and harmless.

Dopes, Drugs and Anesthetics

Thirty years ago German obstetricians introduced what was called "twilight sleep" in which the mother during her labor was doped into semi-unconsciousness with the drug known as morphine. Scopolamine, another drug, was used in connection with the morphine to induce forgetfulness. However, morphine has many hazards. Being habit-forming, mothers sometimes become

dope fiends. Babies born of dope addicts, if they live, show the effects of the narcotic, there being a case like this reported only last year. Then there is always the danger when using morphine of either the mother's becoming delirious or the baby's being born "blue", or even dead (stillborn), due to a cutting off of the blood and oxygen supply by the paralyzing effect of the drug.

More recently experiments have been carried on with a combination of morphine and benzedrine with a view in mind of removing morphine's sting while at the same time retaining its good qualities. By itself benzedrine stimulates breathing and is used as a "pep-up" drug to excite and keep one awake. Combined with morphine the effect is one of deadening pain while at the same time stimulating breathing in the baby. Still in the experimental stage, the effects of its prolonged use are yet to be determined.

Out of Germany has come another "miracle" drug for "painless" childbirth, variously known as methidon, amidone, dolophine and 10820. Praised at first, more extensive study has shown it to be a very dangerous pain-relieving chemical. It is two to four times as powerful as morphine, can also cause addiction, and is more violent in cutting off the child's breathing than morphine. Right here a word of warning can be inserted to the effect that ergotamine tartrate, recommended by some as a remedy for migraine headache, if taken by pregnant women is liable to cause contraction of the uterus and result in a miscarriage.

Another synthetic chemical developed during the recent war for "painless" childbirth is called demerol hydrochloride. It is used with scopolamine or barbiturates and administered by intramuscular injection during labor. Claims have been made for its efficiency in reducing if not entirely eliminating pain. Its potency as a pain-killer is listed midway between codeine and morphine, and its power as a habit-former is said to be

only secondary, i.e., creating the desire for, but not an addiction to it. Demerol hydrochloride has been used on thousands of mothers, and, though superior to morphine, is not without some drawbacks. In many cases dizziness, nausea, pallor, profuse perspiration and dryness of the mouth have been reported.

Chloroform and other anesthetic gases have also been used to relax the tension and ease the suffering during the final stages of labor. These too are not without their dangers, for when too much relaxation of the muscles is induced the blood in the placenta is not properly forced into the baby's body and then frightful hemorrhages follow. This menace outranks all other causes of maternal death. In such cases not only is the mother weakened, if she is fortunate to escape with her life, but her baby is frail and sickly from its birth.

Other "Painless" Methods

Working on an exactly opposite theory from that of relaxation, other investigators have endeavored to relieve the suffering of childbirth by stimulating the natural contractions and thereby hastening delivery. Through the administration of hormone extracts from the pituitary gland this speeding up of the process is attempted. Obstetricians, however, have been rather cautious and slow in carrying out widespread clinical experiments along this line.

In 1946 a Moscow paper announced that some of Russia's leading gynecologists were working along another line of experiments. It was discovered, according to reports, that during childbirth large quantities of vitamin B₁ are required by the contracting muscles and the overexcited nervous system. So, to overcome muscular fatigue and provide reserve energy, large doses of the vitamin were injected during labor, with the result that delivery was hastened and suffering was reduced.

One of medical science's greatest ad-

vances toward the goal of total and complete freedom from childbirth pains was made in 1942 when a method known as continuous caudal analgesia was first introduced. This was a modification of the old single injection technique, in which the pain-killing chemical was placed in the spinal fluid as a nerve block, and which had many of the drawbacks already mentioned. Using the new technique a special semiflexible needle is inserted in exactly the right spot at the very base of the spine where nerves leading to the uterus are located. Attached to the needle is a bottle of metycaine, a derivative of cocaine, with sufficient analgesic for repeated injections. This method has many advantages over the older ones in that the pain-killer is prevented from entering either the spinal fluid or the blood stream and consequently the breathing of the mother and baby are not interfered with. Throughout the entire delivery the mother is wide awake, able to eat, talk or read, and yet is unaware of any pain. Muscular contraction of the uterus is not slowed or relaxed in any way but continues the squeezing action in the normal manner. A variation of this procedure consists in giving hypodermic injections of pitocin, a hormone of the pituitary gland, along with the continual caudal analgesia and thereby speeding up the muscular contraction of the womb. This latter method, however, may be used only by women that have previously given birth to babies.

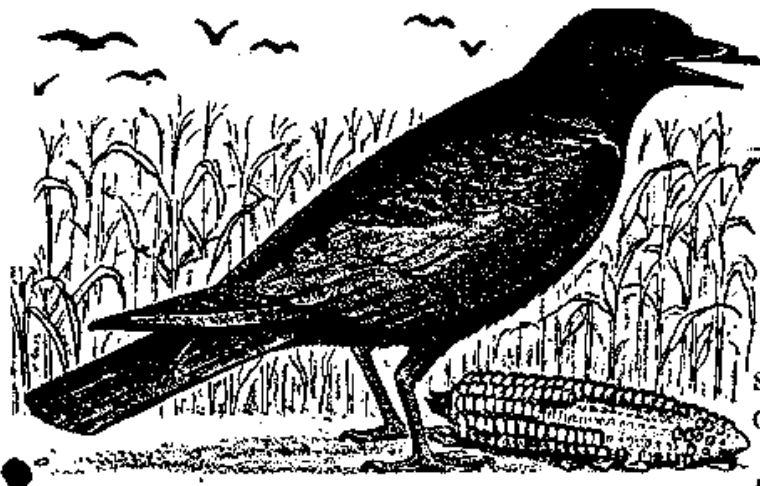
After being used for several years in the delivery of thousands of babies, the New York *Herald-Tribune* reported that the continual caudal method "not only gives complete relief from pain to about 90 percent of the women to whom it is administered but also is safer than any other known method of delivery, includ-

ing that in which no drugs at all are administered". Many of the doctors that have used it have voiced high praise for it, among them being Dr. F. R. Irving, of the Syracuse (N. Y.) University College of Medicine, who says: "There is no question that it is perfect painless childbirth without deleterious effect on mother or child."

Still another school of thought, led by the noted Dr. Grantly Dick Read, graduate of Cambridge University, Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine and member of the Royal College of Surgeons, advocates childbirth without the administering of any anesthetics or pain-deadening agents. His thesis is that most of the labor pain arises from muscular tension caused by emotional disturbances in the mind of the mother. His treatment consists of relieving the mother of all worries, doubts, dreads and fears, of calming her nervous and emotional tensions, and also of teaching her ahead of time the art of relaxing body muscles. This latter matter is important, for, as Dr. Read points out, there are three sets of muscles controlling the motions of the uterus. When the uncontrollable muscles begin to squeeze out the child the controllable muscles that guard the exit should be relaxed. Failing to do this, pain results, he claims.

Regardless of what method or treatment is used to relieve mothers of physical and mental suffering connected with birth, the only complete, sure, safe, natural and final remedy for the sorrows of conception will be experienced by those that live in Jehovah God's Theocratic new world, concerning whom He declares: "They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for calamity; for they are the seed of the blessed of Jehovah, and their offspring with them."—Isaiah 65: 23, *Am. Stan. Ver.*





CROWS

Shrewd Rascals with Big Hearts

LOVED by some, hated by others, praised by many, and cursed by more, the common crow is one of the most interesting of all birds. An astonishing bird, in fact; a feathered genius indeed! Cunning and shrewd, clever and smart, as canny as they come, and as sharp as a tack. That is how *Corvus Brachyrhynchos*, the common crow, is described by those who have studied him. Henry Ward Beecher once remarked that if men wore feathers and wings, very few of them would be clever enough to be crows. Another exclaimed: "To be sure, he is a rascal, but what a lovable rascal!"

Æsop's story of "The Crow and the Pitcher" tells how the water, only partly filling the pitcher, was out of reach of the crow. So with the wit, cunning and wisdom that is credited to crows it began dropping pebbles into the pitcher until the water level rose high enough for the bird to quench its thirst. Their power of association has also been noted. A man walking through the woods is watched by the alert crows. The man sees the crows. Later the same man walks through the woods carrying a gun, but instead of seeing the crows he only hears a distant "caw" as they disappear from sight. Now a woman carries the same gun through the woods, and not only does she see the crows but is able to come to within a short distance of them. This is because the gun has, as yet, not been associated with the apron strings and

skirt. Let the woman kill a few of the crows and the story will be different.

In many parts of the world no distinction is made between crows and ravens. South America is the only continent where there are no native crows. Keen-sighted, sharp of hearing, with a ghastly appetite and plenty of spunk to fight, the black-feathered crow is more numerous in population than ever before, and this in spite of man's mighty efforts to blast these birds off the earth. "The crow is one of the few birds known to possess a keen sense of smell," says James Pollard. This gives them protection. They have good speed on the wing, too: 30 miles per hour on the average, with records of 60 miles per hour with a good tail wind. "Until you measure a crow," says Joseph W. Lippincott, "it is hard to believe that he has a wingspread of about three feet."

The owl may be wise because it doesn't talk, but crows are considered wiser because they jabber all the time. They are the most talkative of all creatures aside from *Homo sapiens*. The crows are no songsters like the orioles and canaries. Their love-call is not one that the poets rave about. Their voice is hoarse, challenging and unmusical. And yet there is a certain eloquence about it that is pleasing to the ears of the woodsman and lover of the outdoors. Crow talk is not just a noise, it is their language and it consists of many variations in pitch, inflection and tempo, which, when put together, is not unlike our own syllabic language. With such bird language they not only discuss the topics of the day, but sometimes they argue, applaud in a

chorus, issue commands, woo their mates and send out distress calls when in trouble.

Crows can count too. Maybe not high enough to buy a loaf of bread in these days of inflation, but high enough to get their corn out of the farmer's field without getting shot. Three men enter a shack in a cornfield and the crows rise to the treetops at a safe distance where they can watch. One man leaves the shack. The crows remain in the trees. A second man leaves. The birds remain. Not until the third man leaves do the crows return.

The Amusing Side of Crows

There is no end to the stories that are told of pet crows and their pranks. If taken when young they can be taught to say over a hundred English words and fifty complete phrases, as "I'm hungry", and "Let's go to town". There was one flirty crow that would ogle and leer at attractive girls when they passed, while at the same time he would call out "Oh-Boy-Oh-Boy-Oh-Boy!" Pet crows have also been trained to do other things, such as awaken the household at the same hour every morning. Another would daintily wash off its worms before eating them. This ability is not due to any human "intelligence" that the crows possess, as Alan Devoe points out: "The knowingness of a crow is not the thought-born 'intelligence' of man. It is a thing of instinctive cunning and an innate prankish glee."

This latter point is illustrated in the many things wild, untrained crows do,

both when they play and when they work. At times it has been observed that crows play a rough-and-tumble game something like the American football game, except that a pebble or small shell is used instead of a ball and it is carried in the beak instead of under the wing. The object of the game is to buffet the one that is carrying the "ball" while in flight, in an effort to make him drop it. If it falls to the ground there is a free-for-all scramble, and the first one to recover it is then the object of attack. As "practical jokers" crows also seem to get a great delight out of awaking sleeping rabbits or cows when they are caught napping in the daytime.

"Hide-and-seek" is another great favorite among the light-hearted. Usually one of the "teen-agers" will hide in a hollow tree and yell for help as if in distress. Rushing to the vicinity the elder birds search in vain and finally leave. Many times this will be repeated until the prankster becomes tired and pops out, whereupon all have a hearty laugh.

As a mimic the crow is second-best to the lyrebird, the world's ablest. This ability is due to a remarkable development of the bird's larynx. Crows have been known to whine like a dog, bark like a coyote, crow like a rooster, and squawk like a hen. Crows also have a wealth of curiosity and want to investigate anything that is new, even mimicking the actions of those they observe. Hence they will romp after a passing stranger, barking at his heels like a puppy, or follow robins around the lawn digging up worms robin-fashion.



It may be from their habit at mimicking that they have learned to steal. Anyway, domesticated crows that are associated with human society are considered thieves that are well worth watching. They will carry off anything they can lift and that attracts their attention, such as cigarettes, gloves, clothespins, coins, buttons and nails. They seem to have a passion for hoarding bright, glittering objects: pins, needles, tinfoil, trinkets, thimbles, bottle caps, pebbles and bits of broken china. If you have the habit of cleaning your artificial teeth on the back stoop, never lay one of the plates down in open sight while cleaning the other, lest the neighbor's pet crow espy it and make off with it before your very eyes. It has happened before.

As pickpockets, purse-snatchers and shoplifters crows are also notorious. One time a customer was robbed of his diamond stickpin by a pet crow while at the bar in a tavern. On another occasion several important sheets from a courthouse file were made off with by a crow when the window was left open. On July 26 of this year it was reported that a crow snatched the automobile keys and driver's license out of the hand of a Long Island, N. Y., man as he walked from his house to the car. Wild crows even pilfer from one another, steal nest-building material, and seem to think nothing of it. At least they never fight over the matter.

Community Life in Crowdom

In many ways crows seem to get along better than human society, and even seem to live together in greater peace than the members of the United Nations. They are quite clannish, with fifty or sixty of them nesting together in a small area. In their winter quarters their flocks sometimes number as many as a quarter million. This means that in the kingdom of the crows there are set rules and regulations that each one tries to

follow and this in turn leads to peace and unity. Crows are very much devoted to one another. When one of their comrades is injured they will gather round, mourn and lament over the accident, and do everything they can to nurse his wounds. Once when a crow fell into the Merrimack river his buddies dived to the rescue, worked in shifts to keep him afloat, and finally got him ashore. From India comes the report of how crows took care of and fed one of their blinded mates, a task that few birds would do.

In their social system crows have designated scouts and sentries as well as captains and lieutenants to manage the flock's affairs. They never feed unless they have spotters and outposts to give the signal of alarm in case of danger. By their "wireless" communication system they inform every crow in the vicinity of all movements of life. Crows can easily be heard by other crows a mile away. This explains why it is so difficult for farmers to catch crows red-handed when they raid crops and chicken coops. Alan Devoe, writing in *Reader's Digest*, tells us that

crow sentinels, posted in a high tree while their fellows feed, can spot a gun barrel half a mile away, and never confuse it with a fish-pole or a walking stick. When they signal that a man with a gun is coming, the flock departs in absolute silence at a speed of 45 miles per hour. Crows seem to have a vocabulary of at least 25 caw-words for keeping each other posted, and they hear so well that they can detect the snap of a twig more acutely than any other wild creature except deer.

Besides the farmer's shotgun, crows have a number of other enemies, which include owls, hawks, cats, foxes, skunks and raccoons. If any of these are sighted or caught during the daylight hours crows raise such a tumult that all the crows in the neighborhood come a-flying, whereupon they will torment and torture the creature to death unless it is able to reach some near-by shelter.

An Old Wives' Tale

For ever so long it has been told that crows hold court trials when one of their members violates their code of ethics. It is said that the flock assembles in solemn session and debates the matter for hours on end, while the offender silently waits a short distance away to hear the outcome of the court-martial. In the end, if found innocent the flock disperses in silence, but if a verdict of guilty is returned the accused has his eyes pecked out and is beaten to death. Most ornithologists, however, laugh at this as an old legend that has no real basis in fact. Says the *National Geographic Magazine*: "Some observers claim that they [the crows] hold trials over the conduct of some of their members. There is little evidence, however, that anything of this kind takes place."

That crows hold treetop conclaves and follow certain parliamentary rules seems certain. Their get-togethers have all the trimmings of a political convention, and, since they have been holding such far longer than man, it would seem that men have mimicked the crows in this regard, rather than the other way around. Reporting on one of these conventions the *New York Times* says:

A crow convention follows all the accepted rules. As they begin to gather in the clump of elms in the meadow there is a period of preliminary speech-making, confusion and noise. Favorite sons make raucous caucus with minority groups of delegates. There is flitting back and forth from one camp to another by professionals who seek to balance group against group. There is trading and jockeying for position. Small bands fly from headquarters in the tree hotels to spots on the ground, talk secretly together, and then re-join the main group.

There are constant shifts in the preliminary stages. There are moments of sudden surprise when a rumor of major import catches all off guard. A short period of silence is followed by an outburst of louder noise. Little by little tension mounts. Messengers come and go. Dele-

gates form groups and wheel through the air in demonstration of the strength of their candidates. At length, when the noise and confusion are at their height, one senses the approaching climax.

Suddenly, the screaming, shouting and confusion subside. One voice, lone and authoritative, caws forth a series of dogmatic commands. The leader is elected and the platform for the season announced. . . . When the crows finish their convention the tumult and shouting are over. That's a salubrious point about crow politics.

A Look at Their Family Life

In the busy mating season there may be a mix-up in the marital relations, but this is not allowed to interfere with the raising of a family. And so it happens that at times two females will share a single nest while enjoying the companionship of one male, or two males will affectionately work together feeding a single brood of youngsters. Love and devotion of parents for their children reaches a high point among crows. During the three-week nesting period the young birds will eat between 13 and 14 pounds of food, and this requires the parents to endlessly toil until they themselves are but skin and bones. Young crows seem to be all appetite.

Born in April or May, the fledglings learn their kindergarten lessons before they leave the nest. For the first two weeks out of the nest they are in grammar school; then two weeks of high-schooling; and then an intensive four-week college course and they are ready to face the problems of life. They have learned from their elders that cows, sheep, horses and pigs are not to be feared like hawks, cats, foxes, owls and men.

Barring possible accidents, storms and the hot lead of shotguns, crows live to be twenty-five years of age. A record of eighty years has been claimed for one crow. From May to September adult crows shed their feathers, but only a

few at a time, so that at all times they have plenty of flight feathers. In the wintertime they assemble in great roosting grounds, some of which in the United States are located in the area around Philadelphia. Their knowledge of tides is so accurate that they will leave their roost precisely on time to arrive on the tidal flats of Delaware Bay when they can get snails and small fish. This keeps them through the winter when the ground is covered with snow.

One thing you can bet on, crows will never grow hungry for lack of using their heads. In fact, there are very few things a crow will not eat. It takes three pages in an agricultural bulletin to list the different items included in the crow's menu. Fruits and nuts, meats and vegetables, are all included. If a nice juicy field mouse is desired for a change, Mr. Crow hops on the back of a rooting pig and waits till his earth-moving friend uncovers one. Spying a foxy, wily fox with a fresh catch in its mouth a gang of crows will tease and pester it so much that it will run for cover and leave its prey for the hungry crows.

Thousands of crows have been dynamited, shot, poisoned and killed in other ways by man because of the damage they cause farmers. They have been "damned

as American wild-life enemy No. 1". But such wanton slaughter is not warranted. The crow is worthy of his hire, and the good he does is worth his keep. Every year crows eat tons upon tons of crop-destroying insects. Says the Farmer's Bulletin No. 1102, issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture:

Unimpeachable evidence, however, shows that under many conditions the crow exerts a beneficial economic influence. Insects supply about one-fifth of its food, among those preyed upon being some of the worst agricultural pests—grasshoppers, caterpillars, and white grubs and their parents the May beetles. Despite general belief to the contrary, the crow is esteemed in some farming sections. . . . Nationwide indiscriminate crow control is neither the answer to the problem of restoring waterfowl nor an economically sound procedure for protecting crops and poultry.

Shrewd and clever, a rascal yet lovable, a sense of humor with an impish twist, a boisterous yet peaceable community life that should shame an accusing mankind—all these facts make a visit to Crowville fascinating. And none can gainsay that the bird has a big heart, though irate farmers may mutter darkly that his belly is bigger. So don't be downcast, Mr. Crow, you're not as black as you are painted.

Cat-and-Canary Murders



Bozo the Cat used his inside connections with a pet shop in Brooklyn to commit four murders, in front of many witnesses. Bozo tried to break into wire cages containing canaries and other birds, but was somewhat distracted by the gathering crowds on the sidewalk that tried to shoo him off by waving burning papers. The police car arrived, but could not locate the owners. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was phoned, but said it could do nothing as the shop was private property and could not be broken into. By now Bozo was no longer impressed by the physical gyrations and flame-throwing of the frantic humans outside, and concentrated on the frantic canaries inside. He systematically punched a hole in one of the wire cages, dined on four canaries worth \$3 each, and then took it on the lam without leaving so much as a tip. Bozo left through a window as rescuers entered the back door. A \$12 dinner on the house—not bad.

"THY WORD IS TRUTH"

JOHN 17:17

Why Must Messiah Die Before His Glory?

IN PREVIOUS articles we have furnished abundant proof that the Jesus of Nazareth of nineteen centuries ago was the foretold Messiah, whom the Greek-speaking Jews then spoke of as "Christ". Hence He came to be called Jesus Christ.

When He had finished His work which had been assigned to Him on earth by the Most High God, He reported to His Father in prayer and said: "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men [the loyal apostles] which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word." (John 17: 4-6) The next afternoon Jesus died on a tree at Calvary.

His words above are proof that previously He had been a spirit in glory with Jehovah God, that He had been sent to earth to perform a work which He had now done, and that He desired to return and be with His Father in heaven. It was not long after this prayer that He was arrested, charged with the crime of treason against the Roman government then in control of Jerusalem, and condemned. The charge was based upon the fact that Jesus had repeatedly emphasized God's kingdom and had constantly kept it before the minds of His followers. So this man Jesus, under arrest, was brought before the Roman governor at Jerusalem

to be tried, and there He was convicted and executed for treason, even though He was wholly innocent.

In reply to the false charge Jesus said: "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." The time had not come for putting the Kingdom in operation in power and glory, and for that reason Jesus said the Kingdom was not from a worldly source and hence not then in operation. The clear inference must be that there was a further work to be done on earth before He would come in heavenly glory and power to take up the reins of the government.

At that time Jesus was asked by the Roman governor this question: "Art thou a king?" To this, Jesus answered: "Thou sayest I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." (John 18: 36, 37) This confession establishes the fact that Christ Jesus, God's Anointed One, was sent to earth and made a King to bear witness to the truth of the majesty and supremacy of the Almighty God and of God's purpose to set up a kingdom that would completely vindicate the name of the Most High. To prove himself worthy to be king in that government Jesus as the Messiah must die for His complete faithfulness to God and in vindication of God's supremacy. Indeed, within a few hours after this Jesus was nailed to the tree at Calvary as though He was a vile sinner, and there He died.

Concerning a man thus executed God's law declared: "His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance." (Deuteronomy 21:23) God's law announced thus through Moses that the willful sinner should be hanged on a tree and should be accursed of God. For Jesus to be nailed to a tree marked Him in the eyes of ignorant onlookers as a sinner; yet He was entirely without sin. (Deuteronomy 21:22, 23; Galatians 3:13) He had done no wrong. He was holy, harmless, undefiled, and without sin, and all the scriptures so testify. (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 1:19) Why, then, should the Perfect One, the Son of God, be put to death? and why did God permit His beloved Son, who was anointed to be King, to be put to death in such a way, as if He was a vile sinner?

God's purpose in thus letting Messiah die before granting Him glory in heaven was that the Messiah on earth might vindicate Jehovah as the only living and true God and as the Universal Sovereign whose name is holy and whose word is faithful. The Messianic Ruler in God's kingdom must be His Chief Vindicator. That kingdom is of paramount importance in God's purpose and arrangement. Everything else is of secondary importance. At the very beginning of sin in this world God stated His purpose to bring forth His kingdom that would destroy Satan the Devil, who introduced sin, and that would exalt and vindicate Jehovah's great name. (Genesis 3:15) Two thousand years later Jehovah God announced His purpose to choose the ruler for the Kingdom from among Abraham's descendants, and that through this kingdom Ruler all the families and nations of the earth obeying God might receive a lasting blessing. (Genesis 12:3 and 22:17, 18) It is certain that the patriarch Abraham did not understand the full

meaning of God's promise to him; but that did not alter the matter at all with Abraham. He believed God.

It is plain that no man on earth had an understanding of God's kingdom and its real purpose until after the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and His ascension to His heavenly glory. How the predictions concerning the kingdom of God were to be fulfilled, and by whom, remained a mystery until God's due time to reveal it to His obedient people through Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:20-23 and 5:32) Of course, He revealed it first to His beloved Son, who must become the Messiah; and thereafter He revealed the meaning of it to those who became the true and faithful followers in the footsteps of His beloved Son. No others to this day have understood the *mystery of God. Jesus spoke in parables* concerning the royal mystery, but those who stood by and heard Him did not understand the meaning of His utterances. After Jesus ascended into Heaven, He sent down the spirit of God upon His devoted followers to enlighten them.

Then it was that one of His inspired apostles wrote these words, at Colossians 1:26: "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints." That mystery included the question as to why the Messiah should suffer and die before He would be admitted into His royal glory. After Jesus' resurrection from the dead He said to His disciples: "Thus it is WRITTEN, and thus it behoved Christ [or, Messiah] to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things."—Luke 24:46-48.

Hence the answer is that the Messiah must first die before being glorified in order that He might prove His integrity toward God, vindicate God, and prove himself worthy of the Kingdom.

Speak to Be Understood

SO OFTEN the charge is made that "important" people in government and business, and in the higher strata of society, speak and write over and above the heads of the common people. Some magazines and newspapers, like the *Atlantic Monthly* and the *New York Times*, being guilty of the same thing, have been labeled "the unreadable press". The *Wall Street Journal*, on the other hand, is said to have "the most readable front page in the country". Robert P. Gunning, a so-called "readability expert", according to *Time* magazine, asserts that the reason why some writers are "hard to read" is that "their marathon sentences, foggy words and abstractions put their pieces completely out of reach of all but the upper 5 to 10 percent of their readers". They confuse "dignity with pomposity".

Juggling big words and "tapeworm" sentences may be an art, but it is poor art and one that is altogether unpopular. Sir Earnest Gowers recently published a long-needed book entitled *Plain Words* which is especially written for the purpose of showing British officials how to speak and write so that they can be understood. The book gives many examples of burdensome and clumsy expressions that infect "official" language.

"Official" Washington is also guilty of trying to express common thoughts with uncommon words and thereby add, so they think, "dignity." "During the New Deal decade," says English book-reviewer Mervyn Jones, "the poor became the *under-privileged*; the feeble, the *incapacitated*; the hungry, the *undernourished*; and the crazy the *unbalanced* or the *mal-adjusted*. As the world has become more cruel, its language has become more mealy-mouthed. War has become *hostilities*, torture has become *maltreatment*, and massacre has become *genocide*. In the end, as G. K. Chesterton suggested,

murder may be described as life control or free death."

The New Deal may well be charged with bringing in the hobby of condensing words by using abbreviations. It was almost necessary to abbreviate the endless number of bureaucratic agencies fathered by the "raw deal", as it has been labeled. During the recent war the military establishments cultivated the use of abbreviations. As an epidemic it has grown and spread until now it is a plague upon the language. Commenting on this "boiled-down" language, Anita Daniel says, in the *New York Times*, "Speaking and writing in abbreviation is like eating dehydrated food. It may be practical, but it takes all the flavor out of life."

Advocates of this sort of thing say it is practical to sift abbreviations throughout sentences because it saves time. Which makes one ask, What do these "code" speakers do with all the time they save after swallowing half their words? Is it not a strange coincidence that the individuals who are so rushed that they have to chop off their words would never think of leaving out a single syllable when saying "psychoanalysis"? In this case they think the length of the word has dignity, and if spoken in its entirety they have inches added to their mental stature.

Penetrating deeper into the "foggy" way people speak and write, it is observed that lawyers speak as lawyers, soldiers as soldiers, politicians as politicians, financiers as financiers. Each field has a technical jargon of its own, and one that is not in general usage. Speaking to those in their own field they are understood, but lawyers, soldiers, politicians and financiers do not seem to appreciate that when speaking or writing to those outside their particular school of training they should speak and write the language of the general public in order that

all may understand them. If their learning is so narrow and their education so limited that they are not able to express themselves in language that is understood by those to whom they speak, then they should go back and pick up some grammar-school education. They would do well to read more essays written by 10-year-old children.

Oh that men would follow the example of the Bible and the wise counsel of the apostle Paul!—"I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue."—1 Corinthians 14:19.

Gilead's Twelfth Class

◆ The twelfth class at the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead is made up of

108 students, mostly from the United States. However, 18 from Canada, 6 from Great Britain and 1 from the Netherlands also matriculated, thus making this class somewhat international. The Society invited these full-time ministers to arrive in good time before the opening date of Tuesday, August 31. Eager to get started the majority arrived by the Saturday previous and were able to spend Sunday and Monday in adjusting themselves to their new surroundings.

On Monday the new arrivals were introduced to their domestic duties which they are to take care of in addition to their school work. Promptly at 8 a.m. Tuesday, school opened with the address by the school's president, N. H. Knorr, entitled "Not a Slow God". Thereafter the students were dismissed to their classes as school routine once again was in full swing for five months at Gilead.

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SEPTEMBER

1-15

Berlin Struggle; Continued

◆ In early September the struggle for Berlin centered around the currency, which was but a phase of the over-all struggle for Germany, itself but a part of the struggle for world domination. The U. S., on September 2, presented a three-point program for the control of the currency, to be issued by the Russians. The program seemed on the surface to call for but a minor adjustment, but was in fact the basis of U. S. efforts to prevent Berlin from becoming a Russian-dominated city, and calls for four-power control of the amount of currency to be issued and the credits and discounts to be authorized. The plan also included a trade agreement between Berlin and the Western zones of Germany that would insure the economic life of those sections of the city occupied by the U. S., Britain and France. As these discussions were under way, conditions in the city itself were turbulent. There were demonstrations and counter-demonstrations by Communists and anti-Communists. In one of these demonstrations paraders entered the Soviet sector and Russian police and Red army soldiers reportedly fired into the crowd. A Red flag was pulled down. A boy of 15 was killed. Other demonstrators were wounded. Five were arrested by the Russians and sentenced to 25 years at hard labor. The situation continued

tense and the discussions were suspended.

Moscow Conferences

◆ Conferences between the envoys of Britain, the United States and France with Foreign Minister Molotov, of Russia, were resumed September 14 after a fifteen-day break. The Western powers sought to bring the talks over Berlin and the Russian blockade of that city to a conclusion of some kind. After talking an hour and a half (shortest of the ten Kremlin talks), the envoys went away, smiling, but saying nothing, except, "We met Mr. Molotov and Mr. Smirnov [his aide]. No comment." U. S. Secretary of State Marshall the next day indicated that he felt the Kremlin negotiations were discouraging, but had little to say. The perplexity of nations and their leaders is reflected in these "no comment" attitudes.

France's Quandary

◆ France's in-again-out-again government had a troubled week in early September, that is, an extraordinarily troubled week. On September 3, premier-designate Robert Schuman, who had not even been confirmed (as premier) had to give up. But he came back the next day, resuming the commission of premier. After all-night consultations a coalition cabinet was formed and met Sunday afternoon (Septem-

ber 5). It sought to solve the critical situation by approving a straight wage bonus of 2,500 francs to all workers, with the exception of a few state employees. But the Assembly did not back him up, and on September 7, by a vote of 295-289, Schuman was out again. The next day President Auriol charged Henri Queuille (pronounced Kuh-ye), a radical, with the task of forming a cabinet that would get the support of the Assembly. Queuille obtained the backing of the Assembly 351-196 and went to work. He solved the acute problem of finding an acceptable finance minister by taking the job himself. A reshuffling of other cabinet posts produced a new government.

Italian Colonies

◆ Disposition of Italy's colonies in Africa was to be made within a year after the ratification of the peace treaty on September 15, 1947. Deputies of the Big Four foreign ministers held fifty meetings over a period of ten months, but were unable to come to any agreement. Russia in early September proposed a meeting of the foreign ministers themselves, and the other three powers agreed. They met. They talked. They disagreed. They accomplished nothing. The problem then went to the U. N., in harmony with treaty provisions.

Papal Palaver

◆ Pope Pius XII told German Catholics (September 5) they might have to fight "to the last drop of blood" for the independence of the Roman Catholic Church in Germany. The same day the pope addressed a gathering of girl members of Catholic Action that filled the square in front of the Vatican. It was raining, and the pope caught a cold. He urged the girls to be fearless propagandists and bring back to the church's fold all who had been led astray by anticlerical influence. A week later there were 300,000 Catholic youth in Rome in celebration of the 18th anni-

versary of the founding of Catholic Action. He urged the young men to steer clear of false doctrines. Said a Catholic priest, with reference to Communists, "Just let them put out their heads, and we will show them who is running Italy."

Spanish Protestants Persecuted

◆ Dr. John Sutherland Bonnell, of New York, said (September 9) that the saddest spot in Europe with respect to freedom of worship is Spain. He obtained photographs of destruction wrought in Protestant churches by groups of Catholic Action youth, and had copies of literature left by the attackers, warning the Protestants to close their churches and their ministers to leave the country. The pamphlets quoted the pastoral letters of two Roman Catholic archbishops, who branded Protestant ministers as "fomenters of atheism, and disloyal to Spain".

Jullana Becomes Queen

◆ After the instruments of abdication had been duly signed on September 4, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, 68, after a reign of fifty years, assumed the title of princess and introduced her daughter to the people as Queen Jullana from the balcony of the palace at Amsterdam. The following Monday (September 6) the investiture of Jullana took place, and she was solemnly sworn in as queen in the "New Church" (built 1408), the States General governing body in turn swearing loyalty to the queen. Seven Communist members only "promised" fidelity, since they "could swear by none greater" than themselves.

Benes' Death

◆ Dr. Eduard Benes, second president of Czechoslovakia, died September 8. His age was 64. He had suffered a stroke more than a year ago, and resigned the presidency last June. The funeral on September 8 was heavily guarded by the Communists to prevent any disturbance. Behind

the gun carriage bearing the body of Czechoslovakia's beloved president walked his widow in deep mourning, and as she passed the women of Czechoslovakia wept with her. Even men were not ashamed to shed tears at the loss which they had sustained in the death of Benes.

"Pravda" Attacks Tito

◆ *Pravda*, official newspaper of the Communist party of Russia, charged (September 8) that Marshal Tito had joined the imperialists and was waging a terrorist campaign of "repressions, mass arrests and murders" against a majority of the Yugoslav Communist party. As the editorial comes after the death of Zhdanow, leader in the attack on Tito, it shows that the attitude of the Russian Communists toward Tito remains unchanged.

Yugoslav Pigs

◆ The so-called "rich peasants" or "kulaks" of Yugoslavia have been losing their pigs. Marshal Tito in early September sent out his commissars to seize the pigs and turn them over to state-owned farms and peasant co-operatives. The reason assigned was that the kulaks were hiding their pigs and not selling the required quotas to the government. The kulaks said the government would pay only a tenth of the free-market price of pork.

Death of Jinnah

◆ The death of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, governor general of Pakistan, further complicated the already perplexing situation in that region. The Pakistan leader died suddenly of a heart attack, September 11, at the age of 71. The funeral, held the next day, was attended by half a million Moslems, many of them loudly mourning their leader's unexpected demise.

Hyderabad in a Bad Way

◆ The princely state of Hyderabad is in India, but does not want to be of India. It is a considerable stretch of territory ly-

ing right in the middle of the Indian dominion, surrounded by it on all sides, but seeks to remain independent. The government of India insists the situation causes trouble, and to settle the difficulty India's troops invaded Hyderabad from all directions on September 11, while Hyderabad vainly called on the U. N. to come to the rescue. By mid-September India was waging a full-scale war against Hyderabad.

Revolt in Southeast Asia

◆ News reports in early September stated that "revolt-swept Southeast Asia is becoming one of the major danger spots in a troubled world". The situation in Burma, Indo-China and Indonesia is far worse than official statements admit. Governments and rebels are confusing the situation with propaganda. The young Burmese government is beset by four separate revolts, the latest to spring up being the Karen rebellion. The situation is doubly serious because Burma is the rice-bowl of Asia, and decreased rice supplies are certain to result from the widespread disorders. In Indo-China the French forces, about 100,000 men, are insufficient at present to defeat the Viet Nam Republic's guerrillas that swarm over the country. Indonesian Communists have taken over the Socialist, Labor and Young Socialist parties, and threaten to dominate the Indonesian army. The Dutch government has announced that Communism will be outlawed in the Indies, and will be fought by the government "with all the legal means at its disposal".

U. N. Headquarters

◆ Acting U. N. Secretary General B. A. Cohen, on September 14, turned the first shovelful of earth in the ground-breaking ceremonies for the construction of the monolithic, unimaginative U. N. headquarters in New York city. Mayor O'Dwyer addressed the 300 in attendance, expressing confidence that there would "be

established here a plan for peace so that the little children of today and those unborn will know no war".

Freedom from Want?

◆ Leading participants in the centenary meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Washington in mid-September stated that the earth was just not big enough to support its human population at its present rate of increase. Dr. Fairfield Osborn, president of the New York Zoological Society, speaking on a symposium on the theme "What Hope for Man?" said, "Within the last 300 years the earth's population has increased from about four hundred million to more than two billion." He said the present rate of population increase would double it in another 70 years. Figuring that it takes 2½ productive acres of land to feed one person adequately, it was stated that "some countries have less than an acre of productive land per capita. No wonder there are world-wide shortages and that hundreds of millions of people are either undernourished or actually on the brink of starvation".

Truckers' Strike

◆ September 1 saw the members of New York's truck drivers' union, Local 807, on strike. There were indications that other unions would join in the walkout. Local 807 wanted a wage increase of 25 cents an hour and an employer-sponsored welfare fund amounting to 5 percent of each week's pay roll. There were also demands for rules changes. As the strike progressed the problem of keeping food and medical supplies moving into the city began to worry the mayor, and chain stores began to feel the pinch. By September 11 some of the strikers were back at work, a number of the biggest employers having agreed to the terms of 17½ cents an hour in wage rise, a more moderate welfare fund and some of the rules

changes. But the majority of the striking truck drivers stood adamant for the initial demand. Other locals made new demands, and by the middle of the month the picture was one of confusion. Employers also announced that they did not intend to budge.

Coastal Strike

◆ The Embarcadero of San Francisco's harbor area was marked by unaccustomed quiet in early September. No trucks and railroad freight trains moved. Similar scenes were observed in other West Coast ports. The maritime strike was under way. The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (CIO) was contesting the rejection by employers of the union hiring hall as a closed-shop device.

Meat Packers Sued

◆ The four outstanding meat packers of the U. S. were, on September 15, accused of monopoly, suppressing competition in the sale of their products. The federal government demanded that the "big four" be split into 14 distinct competing concerns. The action was taken through a civil lawsuit filed in Chicago against Armour & Co., Swift & Co., the Cudahy Packing Co., and Wilson & Co., as meat prices were rising sky-high. Attorney General Tom C. Clark said that the suit, which alleges violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, was part of a Department of Justice drive to free production and sale of food products from the restraints of monopoly.

Polio Publicity

◆ Poliomyelitis continued to receive great publicity in early September. It was reported by Columbia University (September 1) that a new man-made chemical of the sulfa type had "successfully halted a polio virus in the mouse". The *Times* said, "Even if it turns out that phenosulfazole neither prevents nor cures human poliomyelitis, the news that it does so in mice is

of scientific importance." Virus specialists, however, were not impressed with "Darvisul" (trade name of the chemical). It was stated that the current outbreak of poliomyelitis in the U. S. could turn out to be the country's worst in more than thirty years. The peak year, 1946, saw nearly 30,000 cases.

Ten-Year Health Program

◆ A ten-year health program, made public in early September by the Federal Security administrator, proposes to take measures to save 325,000 from dying needlessly every year, as well as to prevent loss of 4,300,000 man-years of work annually because of sickness at a cost of \$27,000,000,000 in lost production. The program recommends more medical personnel, increased hospital construction and a compulsory health insurance program as of primary importance. Six other recommendations, following in the order of their importance, are (1) improved mental health, (2) provision for a healthy maturity by control of chronic diseases, (3) rehabilitation for the handicapped, (4) more maternal and child health services, (5) improvement of research and community action to assure co-ordination of medical services, and (6) establishment of local health units. Medical men generally are opposed to the program.

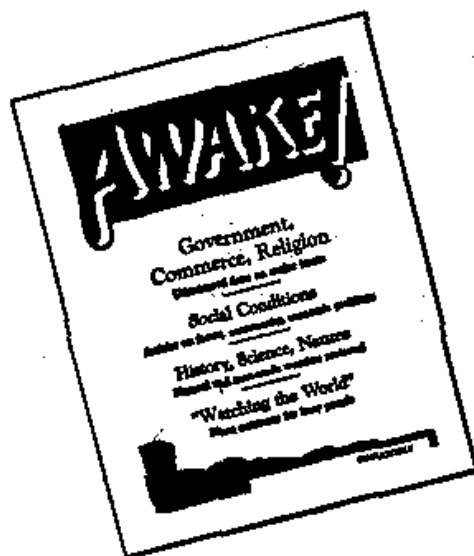
In the Philippines

◆ September brought fourfold woe to the Philippines, as floods in Luzon followed a destructive typhoon, and a supposedly extinct volcano on one of the islands necessitated the evacuation of thousands. The Hukbala-hap faction made the gruesome foursome complete by resuming open rebellion against the government.

Jet Record

◆ Maj. R. L. Johnson, of the U. S. Air Force, flying a North American F-86 jet fighter plane at air races in Cleveland on September 5, set an unofficial record of 669.75 miles an hour.

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