



## **"HOLY YEAR" CRUSADE AGAINST COMMUNISM**

Fruits of the last "holy year", aims of this one

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## **Alaska Knocks at the Door of the Union**

Will the United States invite her to come in?

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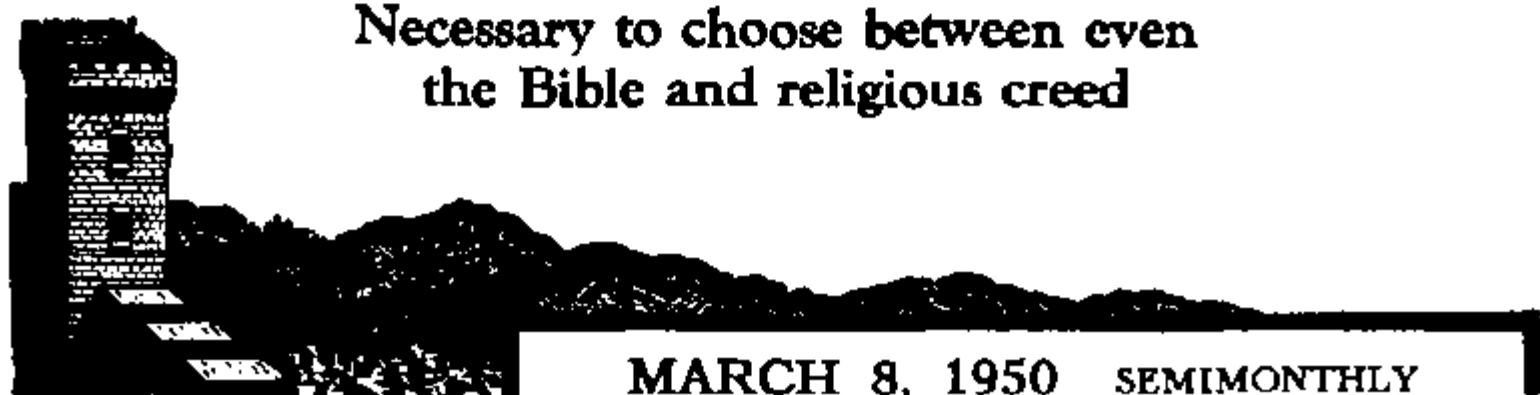
## **Birth of China's New Democracy**

Oddly termed a "Democratic Dictatorship"

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## **God's Word or Man's—Which?**

Necessary to choose between even  
the Bible and religious creed



MARCH 8, 1950 SEMIMONTHLY

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# AWAKE!

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

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Number 8

## "HOLY YEAR" CRUSADE AGAINST COMMUNISM

POPE PIUS XII inaugurated 1950 as "Holy Year" amid a great flare of temporal glory, wealth and splendor, together with solemn ritual mingled with a blaze of color and spectacular pageantry, the like of which is not displayed by earth's most royal potentate. Clad in rich ceremonial robes and surrounded by incense burners, lighted candles and a corps of high-ranking diplomats from the leading governments of this world, Pius took a gilded hammer, tapped three times on the mystic door of St. Peter's basilica while chanting in Latin, "Open to me the doors of justice," and the stucco door fell in! Thereupon the bells of 400 churches dolefully announced that Rome's twenty-fifth jubilee year had officially begun.

The first Catholic "Holy Year of Jubilee" was A.D. 1300, so designated by Pope Boniface VIII. Large numbers of pilgrims flocked to Rome "to the profit of both clergy and citizens", the *Encyclopædia Britannica* tells us. Thereupon, "infallible" Boniface decreed that such "holy years" should be celebrated at the turn of every century. Other popes, however, considered a hundred years too long to wait and so "holy years" were ordered every 50 years, and finally at 25-year intervals, in 1389. The last "holy year" launched, A.D. 1933, was an extraordinary one slipped in by Pope Pius XI on the 1900th anniversary of Christ's death. It was extended to Whitsunday, 1935.

MARCH 8, 1950

Now that the mid-twentieth-century "holy year" is in progress, what may we expect? In his prayer Pius XII described 1950 as "the year of the great return and of the great pardon". This is very significant, as we shall see. Then, in his Christmas message on the eve of the "holy year", the pope said he can "already foresee" that 1950 is of great "importance for the coming half century". "It seems to us," the pope continued, "that the holy year of 1950 must be decisive." And again, he averred that this would be a decisive year "for the future of the [Catholic] Church", which he further described as the "church militant". In this send-off speech for the year the pope called for a holy crusade against communism.

In view of such ominous statements it is not surprising that many questions crowd the mind regarding the importance, significance and consequence of this year. Will another clerical-sponsored crusade be launched? What are the prospects for peace? Since Catholicism and communism, the "church militant" and "militant atheism", are politically at opposite ends of the international teeter-totter, what bearing will this year have on the temperature of the "cold war"? In short, what are the Vatican's aims and purposes during 1950? To aid in answering, we may well consider the Vatican's aims and purposes during the last "holy year" of 1933, and review the chain

reactions set in motion by the Vatican during that fateful year and thereafter.

### ***Fruits of 1933 "Holy Year"***

In his papal allocution before the Vatican Consistory on March 13, 1933, Pope Pius XI set forth in dark ecclesiastical language what the Hierarchy's aims were for that year. First denouncing the enemies of the Church in the strongest terms, the pope then made certain who these enemies are by saying: "We refer first of all to Protestant proselytism, at one time cautious and cunning, at another time unabashed and provocative." Godless communism, that is, communism minus Catholicism, was also denounced as the Church's enemy. Bestowing high and elegant praise on Catholic Action, the pope called upon this force to wipe out these enemies. In reality, it was a rally of papal forces against all those opposed to Vatican schemes. It was a passionate cry for another "holy crusade".

Answering the call to action, madman Hitler prepared for the crusade. Listen! crusader Hitler speaks:

My purpose is the subjugation of all races and peoples and to set up our master race to rule the world. . . . Empires are made by sword . . . by theft and robbery . . . by brute force. . . . We shall proceed step by step with iron determination . . . we shall be master of the earth. . . . I have no conscience. I shall shrink from nothing . . . we have no scruples. . . . There is no such thing as truth. . . . We are at the end of the Age of Reason . . . the Ten Commandments have lost their validity . . . the Sermon on the Mount is for idiots. —*History of World War II*, F. T. Miller, B45, page 63. .

It was such a man that the Catholic Center party put in power. It was such a man, a baptized and faithful son of the Church, that became chancellor of Germany on January 30, 1933, that received virtual dictatorial powers on March 23, that led the Catholic crusade first against Protestant Germany, and then against the Protestant Allies. It was with such a

man and his Catholic government that the Vatican signed a concordat.

A few days after Hitler was securely seated in the dictator's saddle, Pius XI, on April 2, tapped three times on the mystic door and officially opened the "holy year". Immediately Germany's constitutional Weimar republic was scrapped; Catholic bishops and clergy rallied to Hitler's support; the twentieth-century Inquisition began; concentration camps and torture chambers were constructed; anti-Semitism was unleashed; *Schovah's witnesses*, the *outsoken foes* of papal totalitarianism, were banned, their Bibles and literature were burned, and the American property of the Watch Tower Society was seized. On July 20 of that unholy year, Papal Knight Franz von Papen signed the concordat on behalf of the Nazis, while Cardinal Pacelli, now Pius XII, did the signing for the Vatican. From then on the Vatican marched arm in arm in faithful alliance with Hitler and Mussolini as their armies took over one country after another.

When the Nazis marched into Austria, Cardinal Innitzer hoisted the swastika atop his cathedral, declaring that the fuchrer was "a man visihly blessed by Providence". When the Nazis conquered Slovakia, Roman Catholic Monsignor Tiso was installed as its ruler. When the Nazis crushed Poland, Catholic priests called upon the people to submit to German rule. When the Nazis overran Protestant Denmark and Norway to the north, and the Low Countries and France to the west, the Hierarchy's Quislings and "fifth column" were there to weaken all resistance. Catholic Leopold of Belgium was given haven by the Nazis from the wrath of his own betrayed people, and Vichy's puppet, Pétain, was put in office and lauded by the Hierarchy as "the good Marshal". To the east, when the Nazis turned on the Russians in a "holy crusade" against godless communism, the Catholic newspaper *L'Italia* of Milan told how the Vatican's priests fol-

lowed up and took over the churches "with the consent of the German military authorities". (St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, July 23, 1942) Each year during that frightful struggle the Catholic bishops of Germany met at Fulda and there blessed and praised the crusade and prayed for German victory "on land, on sea and in the air".—New York *Times*, December 7, 1941.

#### **"Benefits" of "Holy Year" Extended**

With the extension of that "holy year" into 1935 the Hierarchy backed up Mussolini in his march against Ethiopia and Albania. When brutish Axis armies raped Ethiopia, 57 bishops and 19 archbishops sent *Il Duce* a joint telegram reading: "Catholic Italy thanked Jesus Christ for the renewed greatness of the country made stronger by Mussolini's policy." (*Osservatore Romano*, Aug. 22, 1935) Blessing the rape, Cardinal Schuster of Milan, on October 28, 1935, declared: "The Italian flag is at this moment bringing in triumph the cross of Christ to Ethiopia to free the road for the emancipation of the slaves, opening it at the same time to our missionary propaganda." Like a modern crusader, Archbishop Margotti jubilantly declared: "Italy has joined the anti-Bolshevik front with the enthusiasm and faith of the ancient crusaders." (New York *Daily News*, July 21, 1941) Catching up this phrase, the fascist press said that the war was a "crusade against the Russian atheists".—Kansas City *Star*, June 8, 1942.

Call to mind also that it was June 3, 1933, when Pius XI, in his encyclical *Dilectissima Nobis*, issued a declaration of war on the democratic government of Spain, and imposed upon it automatic excommunication. With the revolutionary sword forged by the Vatican, crusader Franco massacred 2,000,000 men, women and children, overthrew the Spanish republic, and thus brought to a conclusion the Hierarchy's "holy war" in Spain. The bishop of Salamanca, Cardi-

nal Pla y Deniel, primate of Spain since 1941, turned his palace over for Franco's use during that wicked campaign. (New York *Times*, September 3, 1945) "A Christian gentleman," the Hierarchy called "Butcher Franco"!

In due time Japan joined the totalitarian-Vatican crusade against Western democracy and Protestantism. One month after Pearl Harbor was bombed a Japanese broadcast on January 9, 1942, reported by United Press, stated: "M. O. Daugherty, Irish archbishop for Great Manila, and Bishop Madriga, papal representative in the Philippines, Thursday pledged full-hearted cooperation with the Japanese forces for the creation of a new order in East Asia." Then in June of that year the Vatican opened up diplomatic relations with this new partner of the Vatican-Axis gang. Concerning this the Japanese *Times* of Tokyo, said:

The voice of justice has come from the Vatican. Never before has such wholehearted support of Japan's present action in China been given outside the nation. . . . There are almost four hundred million Roman Catholics to whom the Vatican's word is law. Thus it may be said that one-fourth of the population of the world is supporting Japan in the China incident.

#### **What This History Shows**

Infamous, and black as it is, this running history from and after 1933 shows that the Vatican's last "holy year" touched off a series of international fire-bombs which set the whole world ablaze in World War II. That was no mere accident. It was a planned crusade, planned by the political architects of the Vatican who are determined, one way or another, to bring all "wayward children", meaning the Protestants, Orthodox and atheists, back to "Mother Rome". When the Axis gang was at the height of its glory, when developments were taking place "according to plans", it was boasted that the Vatican-Axis powers were engaged in a "holy crusade" for the pur-

pose of blotting out the effects of the Reformation. This accomplished, the hands of the clock would have been turned back to the time when the "Holy" Roman Empire ruled under Vatican control.

In proof that this was the overall objective of the crusade, note these startling statements. From the Nazi paper *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*, May 15, 1940: "It is not the revision of the Versailles Treaty which is the great thought written on the banner of the German troops, but the extinguishing of the last remnants of the Treaty of Westphalia of 1648 [the treaty that ended the 'Thirty Years' War in a Protestant victory]." Again:

The German war aims were outlined tonight as a re-establishment of the Holy Roman Empire by Dr. Edmund A. Walsh, regent of the Foreign Service School of Georgetown University [a Jesuit university outside Washington, D.C.]. . . . Dr. Walsh said that he had heard Adolf Hitler say that the Holy Roman Empire, which was a Germanic empire, must be re-established.—*New York Times*, February 17, 1940.

#### ***Parallel Aims and Purposes for 1950***

Now consider how similar the Vatican's overall purposes set forth in 1933 are to her avowed aims for 1950. As then, so now, "holy year" has a twofold purpose: religious and political. The religious program endeavors to stir up and stimulate the "faithful" to greater fervor, zeal, devotion and service to the Church. On the political front, Catholic Action is stimulated to crusade against Protestantism, Judaism, Orthodoxy and atheism in an effort to bring back or "return" these "orphans" to the Roman fold. There are some very interesting details in this double-purpose program.

Pilgrimages to Rome constitute an important feature of the religious program. The "holy father", with self-assumed "divine" power, pushed aside the sin-atonement merits of Christ's sacrifice, and in its place decreed that anyone coming to Rome this year may pur-

chase absolution from his sins as well as special indulgences. Such a candy-coated promise should cause all credulous Catholics to hit the road for Rome. But if any hesitate, there are many other inducements offered the tourist trade. For example, an athletic championship in Italy is expected to attract 50,000 persons. Also the saint-making ceremony of canonizing and beatifying individuals long dead will be repeated on four different occasions. On another occasion it is said that the pope will speak in a voice more infallible than God's when he proclaims that the literal, fleshly body of Mary the mother of Jesus was taken to heaven. This should be a sight to see: the pope, a mere man, exalted above the Almighty God of the Universe, openly contradicting God's Word the Bible which says that "flesh and blood cannot possess the kingdom of God"—1 Corinthians 15:50, *Douay*.

For the curiosity-seekers and souvenir-collectors there are plenty of attractions in Rome this year, what with badges, gadgets and religious trinkets galore, all especially blessed and sanctified, not to mention the "holy relics" that will be on display, the antiquity of some reaching back to the days of pagan Rome! The great publicity and advertising given to these attractions are drawing over 1,000 pilgrimages with an estimated 2,000,000 visitors to the city of Rome. Of these, between 800,000 and 900,000 will be foreigners. Some 10,000 were on hand for the "holy year" opening ceremonies.

#### ***Great Year for Lucre-Lovers***

Much of the noise accompanying these pilgrimage parades comes from the band-wagons of the travel agents, steamship companies and airlines. In their greed for the blessed "holy year" dollars, squabbles developed over fare prices to and from Rome. A couple of airlines even got in an open fight over which should get the haul of business. It seems the Vatican's commercial zeal and pas-



sion for profits seized many inside and outside the country. So much so that, in spite of what are termed "price controls", everyone along the routes of travel is doing a roaring big business. Especially is this true inside Rome. You must have "escorts" and "guides". A bed too and a room you must have. You must eat. And for all this you must pay, even before you get to see the man from whom you buy your indulgences.

"A holy year is a source of exceptional revenue for Rome." (*New York Times*, December 17, 1948) The cost for a 12-day stay is officially estimated at \$96 over and above travel expenses to and from Rome, and this does not include a pilgrim badge you must buy for \$3 before you leave the United States. No, the pilgrims do not buy the buildings or beds at these prices, for the United States government already advanced \$15,680,000 to pay for hotel and housing facilities. So you see everyone besides Rome pays for the buildings and nobody besides Rome owns them.

Other unholy problems to be contended with by "holy year" pilgrims include Rome's 7,000 pickpockets and 1,000 female thieves. Besides these, there are 4,000 prostitutes running 722 bawdy houses, and 6,000 free-lance harlots walking the streets of this "eternal city" of wickedness. These too, to quote the mistress of one Roman brothel, are praying for "a prosperous holy year".

The Vatican, while considering these wicked excesses as unavoidable evils that must be tolerated, endeavors to minimize and mask them over with its own display of architectural beauty, gilded glory and splendor, works of art and relics of antiquity. If the visitors to Rome, both Catholics and non-Catholics, can be awed with this temporal magnificence, if they can be spiritually overpowered by the mystic ritual, chanting and idolatry, they may return home convinced in their minds that the Catholic Church is the greatest power on earth and, consequent-

ly, think it futile to oppose her politically or otherwise. But whether this supreme objective of the Vatican is accomplished or not, the pilgrimages to Rome are swelling the papal treasury with their riches.

In launching the 1933 "holy year", Pius XI expressed the hope that it would be "a year of great expiation and remission of sins". All non-Catholics were called upon to "return" to the Church of Rome and receive remission for their sins. Those that refused to be "converted" were run through with the Hierarchy's inquisitional sword, wielded by the Axis crusaders. And while that crusade met with some success, as in Spain, it came short of "converting" the whole world. Hence, in ushering in 1950, Pius XII repeated the cry for a "return", praying that it will be "the year of the great return and of the great pardon".

Couched in the usual papal rhetoric the pope pleaded that Protestants and Greek Orthodox end all "separations" and "schism" and be "harmoniously united" with Rome. To the Jews he threw the door open and bade them enter and take part in the Vatican's political plans and schemes. To those Catholics who had turned to communism, the pope said: "For them there is only one remedy—return!" This papal allocution, therefore, was a clear bid for all non-Catholics to join hands with the Vatican on a co-operative basis. It was a sly and subtle invitation, with no mention of uniting on points of doctrine or teaching. Rather, it was a call to unite in fighting communism. If this could be accomplished, if on the one hand the Protestant and Jewish half of the world could humbly submit to Vatican dictation and take up the papal sword to bring the communist and Orthodox half of the world under the Vatican domination, what a master stroke of Jesuit diplomacy that would be! If accomplished, truly 1950 will be "the year of the great return" to the Dark Ages!

### ***"Crusade of the Great Return"***

But regardless of what action non-Catholics take, whether or not they willingly volunteer for the pope's army, the Vatican is relying heavily on its old and faithful weapon, the one that has been tried and proved in many battles, namely, Catholic Action. As in 1933, so now the Vatican wasted no time waiting for Protestants and others to "return". The day after the 1950 "holy year" was opened the crusade against communism was announced. The following account of it was carried on the front page of the *New York Times*, December 26, 1949, under the headline: "Italian Catholics to Start Crusade Against Atheism."

Rome, Dec. 25.—Instructions have been issued to all members of Italian Catholic Action to begin a nation-wide crusade to make converts to Roman Catholicism among the atheist members of the Communist and anticlerical parties and to persuade others who are still nominally Catholic to return to the Church's fold.

This movement, according to Catholic circles, will be known as the "Crusade of the Great Return". It has the implicit support of more than 4,000,000 Catholic Action members and hundreds of thousands of others who belong to lay Catholic organizations such as the Marian Congregation and the Franciscan Tertiaries. . . .

The spiritual meaning of the opening of the Holy Door . . . according to the interpretation of . . . very high Vatican officials, also had intended to symbolize the removal of the barriers that divide believers and unbelievers. . . .

Translated in practical terms, this interpretation, according to these officials, means that Catholics must go out into the field and make converts among unbelievers and persuade those who, although believers, are no longer practicing Catholics "to return to Christ".

This will be done through intense Catholic propaganda, these Catholics said, which will take the form of large meetings, lectures, projection of films that describe and portray reli-

gious subjects, a vast amount of literature adapted to all levels of culture and many other means.

Quick results cannot be expected, as they will depend on the constant, tenacious but slow work of persuasion, officials explained. Similar movements, according to them, are expected to start in other countries.

As this year rolls on it will be interesting to observe the "many other means" used by Catholic Action in its conversion crusade against not only communists and atheists, but also against other non-Catholic groups. "Other countries," it is announced, are scheduled to be scorched with "similar movements". In view of the blood-chilling events that occurred during the 1933 "holy year" and thereafter, and in view of the pope's prognostication that "the future of the Church" is at stake and 1950 "must be decisive", it is anybody's guess at this time whether Vatican firebrands will succeed in kindling another world war.

But regardless of the historical events recorded during 1950, one cannot help but wonder, in view of the lateness of the times, if this is not the Roman Catholic Hierarchy's last unholy "holy year". Armageddon's final war, "the battle of that great day of God Almighty," according to the Bible, draws nearer and nearer. When it strikes "as a thief in the night" it will wipe out and destroy forever all such commercial-political-religious organizations as that operated by the Vatican. (*Revelation 16:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3*) So let the promoters of this year's "holy" program make the most of it. Let them flourish and grow up as the springtime grass. And at the same time let all people of good-will, both Catholics and non-Catholics, who sigh and cry because of these and other abominations committed in Christendom, rejoice in the comforting words of the psalmist: "When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever." Psalm 92:7.





## Knocks on the Door of the Union

**A**LASKA! How differently this Indian name for "Great Land" appeals to the varied interests—military, commercial, political—who seek it, each for his own end. Even religion has her stake in the coastal towns and the vast reaches of the hinterland. For these powerful interests it may well become a pawn in the international game!

To the peoples "outside", by which term Alaskans refer to the States and elsewhere, it offers a "last frontier". Appealing, though dangerous and doubtless filled with hardships, it is hoped that in its untrammelled freshness, its vast wealth and resources, lie success and hope. To those who merely like to roam through far climes in imagination, it may bring to mind the haunting phrases of Robert W. Service: "And icy mountains hemmed you in with a silence you 'most could hear," and upon them is the "spell of the Yukon".

Alaska is all of these things and more! Neither air executive, in a land where the people travel thirty times as many air miles per person as in the United States; nor the businessman, who surveys practically untapped stores of forest, coal, and metallic wealth; nor the fishing magnates, who take a hundred million fish a year from Alaskan waters, dare estimate the full potentialities of this land once derided as "the icebox" of "Seward's folly".

Near Nome, standing on the Bering sea, one can see with the naked eye on a clear day the rugged shore of Siberia. Its

proximity to Russia was further emphasized when the U. S. army delivered thousands of planes to the Russians at Ladd Field, Fairbanks, Alaska. So easily were they ferried by the Russians to their own land, many generals doubtless meditated that they could as easily be flown back by enemies. To Billie Mitchell, late air-minded tactician of the army who foresaw the attack on Pearl Harbor, this had occurred long before. He crystallized his conviction in the now-famous summary: "He who holds Alaska, holds the world." Convinced of this, the government has built Fairbanks, located but a scant ninety miles south of the Arctic Circle, into a city of nearly 10,000. Even for passenger travel Alaska is an important stopping place on the Great Circle Route to the Orient. One authority phrases it: "From our mainland via Alaska is the shortest and most serviceable skyway to the Old World." Also speeding military endeavors is the fear that "Alaska may be the Pearl Harbor of World War III".

### *Alaska as a Prospective State*

In 1946 by plebiscite, the people of Alaska voted three to two in favor of statehood. According to late opinion from a congressional committee considering H. R. 331, latest proposed "enabling act" to provide for Alaska's admission to the Union, "a 90-percent group" of Alaskans were asking for statehood. Similar bills have been introduced into Congress for the last six years. According to a recent Gallup pole, 68 percent of the Americans voted for Alaska's admission. The army and navy have offered no objection to Alaska's entrance. President Truman advocates statehood for both Alaska and Hawaii. Several admission bills such as

the above have readily passed the House, but the Senate has so far declined passage. This deliberative body looks with critical appraisal at each candidate for statehood as a mother looks at her son's fiancée. Politically, too, the admission of a state (adding two senators) carries more importance for a body of 96 members than for the House with a permanent membership set at 435, in which Alaska would have only one representative.

Some opposition, however, to Alaska's admission is found outside the Senate. The late Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president emeritus of Columbia University, has warned the committee considering the bill that the geographical positions of both Alaska and Hawaii make their admission undesirable. He argues that they are not "contiguous and compact" with the forty-eight states. Hawaii is 2,400 miles from the American mainland, while between Alaska and the United States extend 870 miles of Canadian land. Admitting that both have larger populations and more wealth than some of the states did at their admission, he contends that the divergent interests of four senators representing such distant outposts might well affect the treaty-making activities of the U. S. Senate. The major question, others averred, is what is best for the Union as a whole. The argument is weakened, however, by the experience in the last war emphasizing the necessity of safeguarding the interests and independence of both Alaska's Aleutians and Hawaii's Pearl Harbor.

Other arguments apply specifically to Alaska. Jack McCord, cattle rancher and forty-year resident of the territory, objects on the grounds of an increased cost of statehood of about \$5,000,000 which must be borne largely by 20,000 white property owners. McCord's income and population estimates (1947) appear rather low in comparison with the figures submitted during the 1949 congressional

committee hearing. The latter population estimate is given at 95,000 to 105,000, two-thirds of whom are white Americans. The value of the salmon pack (1947), chief industry, was placed at \$88,000,000; other fish, such as herring and cod, raise the total for fish to \$107,000,000. (This is seasonal occupation for only about two months of the year and is financed by absentee owners, comprising some Alaskans.)

Like fishing, the mining industry, second in importance, imports men from the States for the major part of its labor supply. Thus after a short season in gold mining from spring to fall both the personnel and payrolls leave Alaska. Between 1880 and 1939 Alaska produced \$779,592,777 in gold, more than 108 times the purchase price which was so much criticized by opponents of Secretary of State Seward, who arranged the sale from Russia, in 1867. (Purchase price to Russia, \$7,200,000) Coal valued at \$2,000,000 and platinum valued at \$1,000,000 were reported in 1947. The trapping of pelts has reached the \$2,000,000 level; lumbering, chiefly spruce, cedar and hemlock, brings in \$3,000,000. These industries plus the tourist trade account for most of Alaska's income.

Many believe, however, that with the recent enactment of a personal and corporate income tax, passed by Alaska's territorial legislature, Alaska will be able to afford statehood. More than \$16,000,000 in federal income taxes was paid by Alaskans in 1945, while much of her farming and lumbering resources have been hardly scratched. The famous Matanuska farming valley, with a comparatively mild climate warmed by an arm of the Pacific reaching near its location at the head of Cook's Inlet, produces the finest vegetables. Residents of Juneau declare that when local produce is available, the carrots and strawberries particularly are larger and tastier than any in the States.

Alaska's problems spring chiefly from its size and geographical location.

#### ***The Climate and the Country***

If the territory of Alaska were superimposed upon the United States, the southeastern point of the Panhandle would rest near Savannah, Georgia, the Arctic shore line would extend along the Canadian border, while the southwestern Aleutian Islands (Attu) would touch Los Angeles. This vast northland empire of 586,400 square miles is about one-fifth the size of the United States and if admitted into the Union would dwarf the state of Texas. The combined area of Norway, Sweden and Denmark, which have a "comparable climate" and were supporting a population of 13,000,000 before the war, is less than that of Alaska.

Former secretary of the interior, J. A. Krug, gave a comprehensive summary of Alaska's three main climatic divisions, in the *New York Times Magazine* a few years ago. "Southeastern Alaska," his article states, "the Panhandle strip stretching down to within 700 miles of the State of Washington, is a mountainous forest country with some of the world's best fishing grounds off shore. The southern coast, including Kenai peninsula and Kodiak island [and the Panhandle], is like southern Sweden and Norway and is not unlike parts of Maine in climate and vegetation. The central heartland of the Yukon and the Tanana river valleys is similar to the Swedish and Finnish interior and again is not unlike the high plains country of the upper Missouri Valley. The northern and western regions are like the northern coast of the Scandinavian Peninsula." About one third of the Alaskans live in the Panhandle strip, another third in the central heartland around Fairbanks and Anchorage and the prosperous Matanuska farming valley.

The Indians live chiefly in the Panhandle and southern coastal area while the Aleuts live on the Alaskan peninsula

and the Aleutian islands. The Eskimos live in the north and west, doing much whaling and trapping along the Arctic shore. The terrain occupied by the Eskimauan stock is a region primarily of sea coast and tundra, largely treeless and frozen throughout most of the year. This severe environment presented a challenge which the Eskimo had to meet or die. On the headwaters of the Yukon salmon are a great source of summer food, while lake trout weighing up to thirty pounds are caught in all seasons. What the buffalo was to the Plains Indians the caribou is to the Indians of the far north. Bears, including the grizzly, polar and tremendous Kodiak or brown bear, are hunted by the Indians. Another big fellow of the forests, the moose, is so abundant in some sections that Anchorage has an ordinance forbidding shooting them within the city limits.

Civilization has brought the Arctic and hinterland dwellers outboard motors for their whaling boats, "walkie-talkie" radio sets for the small Indian villages to establish communication, phonographs on which the latest records furnish music in ice-windowed igloos through the long winter nights. Civilization, wiping out these advantages, has also brought tuberculosis and venereal disease, to which the aborigine is twice as vulnerable as the white.

#### ***Comparison with Sweden***

Further comparison of Alaska with the Scandinavian peninsula should brighten Alaskan hopes. For example, Sweden, with only one-tenth of its land arable, and even adding that of Norway and Finland, has less farming and grazing land than Alaska, but supports 6,500,000 people. The Swedish standard of living is one of the highest in the world and their longevity is only exceeded by the inhabitants of the Netherlands and New Zealand. The only Alaskan railroad, running through Seward and Anchorage to Fairbanks, has a total length of 509.4

miles, while Sweden has 10,000 miles of railroads, mostly electrified, plus bus and air lines. Until the completion of the Alaskan highway through Canada, which still has not sufficient accommodations for general travel, Alaska could be reached only by water or air.

Sweden raises her best potatoes above the Arctic Circle, 40-percent better. Her wheat yield, on land no more fertile than Alaska's, is 32 bushels per acre. Swedish cattle are fattened on sawdust transmuted by chemists into exceptionally fine fodder. Alaska's forest preserves are not quite so extensive as the Scandinavian's but they are nonetheless vast.

At least 100,000 Swedes own their own boats. The cooperative store is developed to a high degree so that all may get food cheaply. Besides supplying her own people, Sweden exports bacon and other products. The town of Stockholm has much exceptionally fine modern architecture. It is set in a lacework of "countless waterways, splashed by lakes glittering and glowing, and partitioned by streams rushing from the lakes to the Baltic".

All this could be Alaska's and more. Alaska's mineral resources are beyond comparison with those of the Viking's land. It has not only gold, but many other minerals including tin, iron, copper, platinum, lead, petroleum, tungsten, molybdenum, marble, and so much coal that nobody has ever been able to estimate how many billions of tons are waiting to be developed.

Alaska's two great needs, so often em-

phasized by her friends, clearly appear from this comparison: (1) adequate transportation; (2) capital to expand industry and develop resources. In the new world, when the Father of Lights makes all land yield abundantly, Alaska, with its mighty forests, glacier-girdled mountains and scenic waterways, will doubtless rival in beauty other "gems of the Pacific".

Meanwhile Alaska's long fight for statehood goes on. According to estimate it takes a year for a territory to become a state even after passage by Congress of the enabling act, and requires the electing of a constitutional convention, whose constitutional draft must be ratified by the president. In the last bill Alaska's proposed constitution called for an article prohibiting molestation of anyone's practice of his religion. The chief criticism of the act concerned its ceding only 2 percent of the territory to the proposed state. Debate on this brought out the information that the U. S. government now owns 91 percent of Nevada, 85 percent of Arizona, 75 percent of Utah, and 46 percent of California.

Alaska need not be discouraged. It took seventeen bills before New Mexico became a state in 1912, which, together with Arizona, was the last admission. Another year will doubtless see another bill introduced. According to the democratic system of self-determination in government it seems that Uncle Sam is obligated to eventually admit Alaska to statehood.



### Great Writers Slightly Insane?

✂ An article in a recent issue of the *British Medical Journal* declares that many famous authors show symptoms of being slightly insane. Listed in this classification are such great names in English literature as Bunyan, Shelley, Boswell, Tennyson, Lamb, Ruskin, Burns, Johnson and Dickens. Some of these, it is said, were fit for the insane asylum, while others are just classified as alcoholics, drug addicts, manic depressives, or schizophrenics and psychopaths. Presumably it takes more brains to reach these conclusions than the great masters of writing had. But the author of this brainy article, though he does write, would probably be insulted if called a "great writer". He says he is simply a brain specialist, his name incidentally being Dr. R. W. Brain.

# A ZOOLOGICAL TREASURE ISLAND



By "Awake!" correspondent in Panama

A HAPPY exception to the reputation gained by most zoos is that of Panama's island zoo in Gatun lake. No nature lover need fear that he is there observing an unhappy animal population that would far rather be somewhere else.

When Gatun lake was formed in the Panama Canal by piling back the waters of the Chagres river, many hilltops became islands. As the rising waters inundated their feeding and breeding places, the animal inhabitants migrated to the largest of these new islands, Barro Colorado (Red Clay), covering six square miles in the middle of Gatun lake. On behalf of these "displaced parties", the governor of the Canal Zone in 1923 declared Barro Colorado island a forest preserve, where wild animal and plant life would be free to thrive unmolested. A trip to this unusual zoo to watch animals, birds and insects living in the manner of their ancestors and free from man's interference will prove interesting and enjoyable.

We cross the lake by native *cayuco*, clamber ashore, and immediately realize that this isle boasts a form of life unusual in most zoos—insects. The first to be noticed are the ants, for the most casual visitor will observe their bare, well-packed roads about four inches wide running through the thickest grass for as far as half a mile. Over these "sail" the

Attas, or leaf cutters, carrying overhead a fragment of green leaf larger than themselves.

There are other ant inhabitants. Note the giant Congo ant, an inch in length. Don't shake hands, though, as he stings like a hornet. A sweeping gaze upward may reveal beautiful "icicle" decorations hanging from trees, sometimes as high as eighty feet above the ground. These are the work of the Azteca ants, the papermakers. They industriously chew up bits of wood or plants and glue it together with secretions from their mouths. The result is the very thin yet tough paper forming their iciclelike nests. Antdom's militant black army ants, the dreaded Ecitons, are also evident. These meat eaters are often heard before they are seen, as the snap of their great sickle-like jaws can be heard several feet, and they travel in regiments.

Inquiringly, now, we note underfoot and from a nearby tree a long narrow tube of a durable paperlike substance. Tracing it upward brings our gaze to a football-shaped nest of the same material—the home of a family of termites. The termite is a habitual "subway commuter", as he dislikes light, wind or moist air; and these tubes of masticated wood and clay provide his transportation. In the order of size, termites are divided into three classes: queens, kings and workers (as the names imply, the proletariat supports the royalty). Every spring, baby kings and queens, born with two pairs of wings each, catapult from the nest through holes in the walls made by the workers. After a few hours' flight they bite off their own wings and settle down to domestic life and the chore of producing the next generation. Every house owner is aware that the termite's chief diet is wood!

Much propaganda has been circulated



relative to spiders. However, a closer investigation of their habits here in this wild-life "promised land" will aid in correcting some of it. Strangely, spiders are more easily located at night than in the daytime, due to the pin-point gleam of greenish-blue light reflected from their eyes in the flashlight's beam. One of the spider clan, the scorpion, whose painful sting, contrary to popular belief, is not fatal to humans, is a night hunter. Catching beetles and other prey in its crawfish-like claws, it brings its jointed tail up over its body and pierces its victim, and poison flows into the wound.

Northerners usually fear the hideous tarantula with its body of two inches and leg spread of seven. It, too, resides here. Though its bite may be fatal to a person in poor health, the natives seem unafraid of it. The tarantula has its nemesis in the tarantula hawk, a large wasp whose sting paralyzes the tarantula. In this nonresistant state he is dragged off to the hawk's nest to become food for young wasps.

One insect we do not wish to contact is the red bug. Too small to see, the first awareness of his presence comes from intense itching of the skin under which he has burrowed! Seed ticks are similar, hanging thickly on jungle foliage. They may strike at any passer-by, and can bore through anything short of leather. Though fatal to northern livestock strains, the native breeds are immune to them.

We are ready to turn our back on the insects when a rare treat catches our eyes: a queer little wormlike creature about an inch and a half long called "peripatus". Peripatus is apparently a cross between a worm and an insect, having rows of fat legs arranged in pairs along its side and a real heart (unlike worms). Like insects it breathes through air tubes. Its velvety skin is light brown with a darker stripe down its back, and above its eyes it carries a pair of antennae almost as long as its body. Its

fragile eggs are carried inside the mother's body until they hatch.

### Snakes and Lizards

It would hardly be natural if, in this jungle wonderland, we did not feel the pangs of fear of the typical tropical terror—snakes! Dreaded reptiles, long and sleek, hanging from every other tree. Though comparatively few are found in Panama, Barro Colorado island shelters representatives of many tropical species.



Here, for instance, one might have the questionable pleasure of making the acquaintance of the viper. Take the tree viper. (Or perhaps you'd rather not!) He is a tree dweller, swinging from limb to limb and feasting chiefly on birds. His olive-green and yellow camouflage adds to his deadly accuracy in picking off his prey, and there may be as much as three feet of length to one snake.

But if you think that's a long story, take a look at Mr. Bushmaster; but be sure you look first. The bushmaster, often seven feet long, is second only to the world's largest poisonous snake, king cobra. A colorful character, the dreaded bushmaster is marked with brilliant black saddlelike markings on a tan or reddish-yellow background. Other reptiles present include the mild-mannered poisonous coral snake, the long-headed tree snake, the blunt-headed snake and a relative of the northern blacksnake.

Then come the snapping crocodiles and the lizards. The anolis or alligator lizard is five inches long. Its short front legs and long hind ones enable it to jump like a kangaroo, thirty inches to the hop. Vacuum pads on his twenty long toes help him to climb, and his favorite position is head downward on a tree trunk.

Of more consequence in public life is the iguana, a five-foot dark-greenish lizard with yellow flanks and a pinkish ruff of spines running down its back. It



is highly prized by the natives for food. Think you would skip it at a dinner table? Careful, then, if dining out in Panama, as there the "chicken" on many restaurant menus is none other than "Brother Iguana" in disguise!

### Bird Life

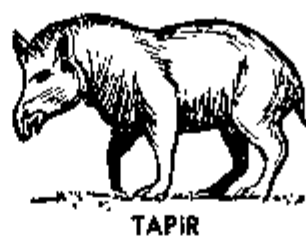
Now, eyes aloft! The greatest pride of the Isthmus is in its bird life. On Barro Colorado size alone limits the variety. Almost any time one peers skyward he will glimpse the ominous vulture. Having an astute sense of smell, this valuable scavenger is usually circling above a carcass even before it stinks to the human sense of detection.

More military, the brown pelicans patrol above the island in V-shaped formations. Other flitting silhouettes against the blue are the grackles. These raucous long-tailed creatures are black as the blackbird and as impertinent as the sparrow. They thrive as well in the city as in the wild.

Like light planes taxiing on an airstrip, you watch the jacanas skipping over a lake of lily pads. Or in a lagoon one may spy an area as great as half a city block dotted with black heads. This announces a fleet of submerged cormorants or "fish ducks". These amphibious aircraft can fly heavily a few feet above the water or sink the body beneath the surface submarine style, using the head as a periscope. Indeed, with each new introduction to a different form of wild life, one becomes increasingly aware of the magnitude of creation and of his own elementary knowledge.

Turning for a final panoramic view of nature's "Treasure Island", we catch in our gaze still more unique creatures. There is the coati, first cousin to the grizzly bear and raccoon. He looks like a small brown doglike monkey and is fre-

quently seen traveling incognito in company with monkeys. He has a probing snout and is a savage fighter against his predatory enemies, dogs and hawks, but makes a docile, clever pet.



Now meet the shy night-riding tapir. Four feet high and tipping the scales at a ton, that is Mr. Tapir. His power and express-train speed

strike fear into the natives.

Here, too, are many varieties of monkeys, a few deer, jaguars and ocelots of the feline family; the large two-foot yaguarondi or chicken cat, wild pigs, armadillos and red-tailed squirrels. Also, say good-bye to the nequi, a peculiar combination of a head similar to a rabbit's and a pig's body.

But speaking of peculiar fellows, none exceeds one of the island's star boarders, the sloth. Built like a shaggy doormat and topped by a mirror-cracking face resembling an idiot monkey, he gains his name no doubt from his complete allergy to work. Sleep is his favorite sport, both indoors and out, and his greatest exertion is going after a few green leaves for food.

No matter when we leave we will have to miss part of this teeming "zoo of zoos". But now, at last, farewell sloth, coati, jacana, iguana, anolis, birds and all the inhabitants. It is night now and as we embark in our *cayuco* we wave adieu to the last occupants we see, the prevalent bats now soaring high against the moonlight like guardian night watchmen.

Inadvertently we think how, in common with mankind, animals find peaceful life with contentment a rare thing on earth. We think what a boon will be brought to all forms of life then provided for, when the long-promised new earth under God's kingdom government brings divine rule to all, providing a glorious home for man and making a covenant with the beasts.—Hosea 2:18.



# Last of the Aztec Emperors

By "Awake!" correspondent in Mexico

WHEN the public press carried the story about the supposed discovery of Peter's bones in Rome it aroused much comment throughout the world. But in Mexico it was the announcement of another discovery that stirred up the greatest interest. On September 26, 1949, the usually peaceful little town of Ichteopan in the southwestern part of the republic was suddenly shaken out of its tranquillity by the clanging church bells. As the people gathered to learn what had happened their interest was centered on a gray-haired spectacled lady. With tears in her eyes she announced: "The remains of the last emperor of the Aztecs have been found."

¶ You wonder why this announcement is of such great importance? It is because the last of the Aztec emperors, Cuauhtémoc, is one of Indian Mexico's greatest heroes, a legendary figure cherished in the hearts of the Mexicans. In 1520, when Cuauhtémoc was a stalwart young warrior of eighteen years, Hernán Cortés the Spaniard, was in the process of conquering the Aztec civilization. Montezuma, then king of the rich Aztec empire, had given costly gifts to Cortés, and had granted many requests, even at the expense of his own people's lives. It appeared that Montezuma was still king, but in reality he was Cortés' prisoner. This situation caused the Aztec warriors to lose confidence in their king, and in the revolt that followed, led by Cuauhtémoc, Cortés and his forces fled the Aztec capital; now Mexico city.

¶ A year later, when Cortés again laid siege to the Aztec capital, Cuauhtémoc was emperor, and though he distinguished himself by his bravery, famine and pestilence among his people finally forced him to surrender. Obsessed with the desire for riches, Cortés then subjected Cuauhtémoc to fiendish tortures to force him to tell where the hidden treasures were. A famous historical painting of the scene shows a Spanish soldier burning Cuauhtémoc's oil-covered feet with fiery coals, while before him stand Cortés, a Catholic priest holding a crucifix, and a third man with pen and paper waiting to write down the statement that was never forthcoming. Cuauhtémoc refused to talk. It is this Indian bravery and stoicism that is idolized as the heritage of the Mexican people.

¶ Because of Cuauhtémoc's power over the people, Cortés deemed it best to keep him alive and under surveillance rather than put him to death. However, some time later when the Spanish conquest was pushed into Honduras, Cuauhtémoc was suspected of plotting rebellion with other Aztec nobles. Then and there Cortés had Cuauhtémoc hanged along with nine others, and that was the last heard of this legendary Aztec until recently.

¶ The rest of the story has been pieced together from a frayed yellow manuscript and sacred traditions that have recently come to light. It seems that 13 days after Cuauhtémoc was hanged, 33 soldiers deserted Cortés, returned to the scene of the crime, took the body down, embalmed it with aromatic herbs, and for four years carried it secretly from one place to another, until it was finally buried in Ichteopan in 1529.

¶ Based on this information excavations in the colonial church of Santa María de Asunción led to the discovery of a stone-covered vault with the inscription: "Rey, & S. COATEMOC" (King and Lord Cuauhtémoc). Inside with the skeleton were 37 beads, 2 rings, 3 cut amethysts and a large uncut diamond. News of the discovery spread like wildfire, by telegraph and telephone. President Alemán was notified. The governor of the state of Guerrero personally visited Ichteopan and arranged to turn the little village into a first-class shrine. All talk of transferring the remains to Mexico city meets with stiff opposition. The townspeople contend that having jealously guarded the remains for centuries, any attempt now to move the bones will mean bloodshed.

¶ Now the people of Mexico have what some of them want—another hero to venerate and worship! One suggestion heard is that atop a lofty mountain peak a statue of Cuauhtémoc be raised to perpetuate his memory. When a newspaper writer refers to this as the "Sinai of Mexico", it calls to mind another great leader, Moses, whose body also disappeared at his death. But in that instance Jehovah God disposed of the body. Seeing how eager men are to worship even the bones of a creature instead of worshipping the Creator, we appreciate God's wisdom in doing so.

# BIRTH OF China's New Democracy

By "Awake!" correspondent in China

**E**VER since the ancient Greeks took the word *demos* and combined it with their word *kratos* to make what the English language voices as "democracy", it has been understood that a government bearing the label of "democracy" is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

But there are many countries claiming to be democratic or "people's governments" whose governments are not born by the practice of suffrage. In some of these countries guerrilla units manage to develop into a hard-hitting army that ultimately scores enough victories to become a major power. It then drives out the existing government and produces a new self-appointed government to take the place of the former one. All this is accomplished presumably for the good of the people. The victorious army is then hailed as the people's army; the new government as the people's government; the laws of the country become the people's laws; and its courts are referred to as the people's courts under the jurisdiction of the people's tribunals. In fact, never before in the history of the country have its people been made so conscious of their pride of possession!

It is somewhat difficult to analyze the class of people particularly benefited by the People's government. Certainly the man in the street has nothing to say in the matter. He has no guns, bayonets, tanks, aircraft, etc., in his personal possession but, theoretically, he holds a share in everything produced by the new reforms sweeping his country. He is only aware of the fact that there are a couple of armed sentries at the corner

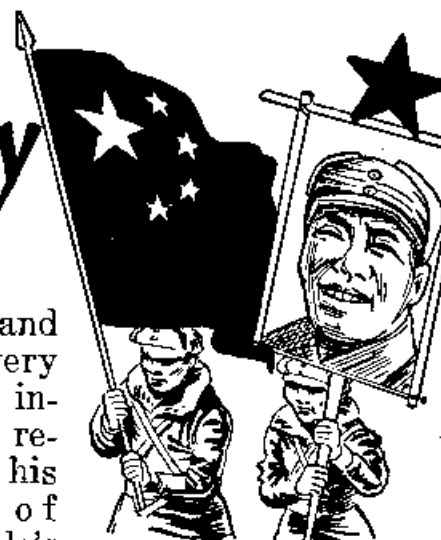
of his street and at almost every other street intersection to remind him of his appreciation of the new People's

government. However, this article is not designed to discuss such democracies generally, but to introduce the reader to a newcomer to the field of world democracy, namely, "The People's Democratic Dictatorship" of China. The title is a queer one, granted, for usually democracy and dictatorship do not live together, but you will see the thought behind the combination later.

## *Rise of the "New Democracy"*

The Kuomintang, or Nationalist rule, although adopting for its party's use the imposing title of "democracy", did but little for the people. It is true that certain liberties were enjoyed under its regime but the actual beneficiaries were the war lords and their families, some wealthy merchants (usually kin to the war lords) and government officials. The bribery, corruption, extortion and financial speculations which resulted from these "special privileges" finally brought the Kuomintang regime face to face with an opposing force. An uprising of the people? Not exactly! It was the fulfilled ambition of a farmer's son to lead the opposing faction.

The year 1949 saw the victorious Red armies, under that farmer's son, Mao Tze-tung, pouring across the Yangtse in hot pursuit of the fleeing Nationalists. In their turn the cities of Nanking, Tientsin, Shanghai, Hankow and Ningpo fell



to the Reds. Autumn saw the new southward drive on Canton opened.

In the meantime, while the southward drive on Canton continued, China's internal affairs were brought into the limelight. In Peking, now utilized as Red China's capital, a large committee of the Communist party settled down to the mammoth task of forming China's new government. This meeting was called "The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference". Article III of the Organic Law of the Central People's Government, reads: "Prior to the convocation of the All-China People's Congress through universal suffrage, the first session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference shall exercise the powers and functions of the All-China People's Congress, enact the organic law of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, elect the Central People's Government Council of the People's Republic of China, and vest this Council with the power of exercising state authority."

By this we note that from the depths of a powerful and victorious army, a nation's government came into existence. Indeed, the whole governmental structure, complete with its power, armies and equipment is Mao's personal gift to the people of China. Do they want it? That is not the question. If they refuse the gift they are termed reactionaries! Article III also promises them a voice in the government at some future date, but that is for the future to decide!

It is most difficult to ascertain the reaction of the people to whom all this allegedly belongs. One can say with surety that when the People's Liberation Army (P. L. A.) was still north of the Yangtse, Shanghai's civilians were not in the least Communist nor were they fervently Nationalist. They went about their daily tasks without any political convictions, like a people whose future fate was not theirs to decide. At that time some labor troubles occurred and

were quickly suppressed by local police patrols armed with machine guns. Executions were fairly frequent; inflation of currency worsened; prices soared to new heights and the black market flourished.

#### *Shanghai in Wake of Red Armies*

Then the occupation of Shanghai took place on May 26, 1949, as the P. L. A. easily broke over the Yangtse defenses and routed the remaining Nationalist forces. A quiet expectancy was the general attitude of the people. What now? Surely things could not be much worse.

The law and order maintained by the P. L. A. forces was amazing! There were no riots or looting, and public life went on as usual. Each street intersection was patrolled day and night by armed sentries who were for the most part quiet and unassuming but exceedingly well trained. There were, of course, a few "lane and passageway searches" for enemy agents of the defeated Nationalists, but no military action. The P. L. A. forces made a very favorable impression on the populace by their strict adherence to military discipline and noninterference with the people. There was no comparison between their behavior and that of the Nationalist troops, who were ill-equipped, riotous, criminal and dangerous. The latter gained quite a reputation for manhandling bus and tram conductors, cinema managers and ushers, in fact, anyone who stood in the way of their obtaining pleasures free of charge, and in their last few days in the city they took to plundering and looting at will.

For a short time the black market flared up anew, but was crushed to a minimum most efficiently, without the former nerve-racking aids of screaming police sirens, armed police patrols, mass arrests and executions. Instead, orders were quietly issued to agents of the black market, and its operations automatically ceased. Perhaps the quiet and efficient street-corner sentries had something to do with the orders' being carried out, yet

they were never seen to be in action.

Then the new city regulations came into force. Couched in mild terms, and more or less expected, they brought orderliness to the city. Exchange of currency was fairly computed and fixed and, except for a slight upward trend now and then, remained much the same. A Parity Deposit Unit based on the price of essential foodstuffs was also effected, and helped greatly in stabilizing the prices.

People soon began to appreciate the increasing efficiency of the new administration. The People's court cut away much costly "red tape" and operated on a friendly arbitration basis. Disputes were amicably settled; apologies, the order of the day; punishments were merciful and comparatively lenient; executions were absent.

New learning in all branches of social life became apparent. At the police centers lectures were given daily showing the evils of a corrupt police force and deploring the practices of extortion and bribery. Today one never witnesses the sight of a policeman cruelly beating a coolie, whereas this used to be a common occurrence in the days of the Kuomintang administration.

All the local schools received new textbooks and taught their pupils the new patriotic songs, which are now fervently sung all over the city. These songs, fashioned like the "sawdust" revivalist's hymns, extol the virtues of the new China state and laud the heroism of Mao Tze-tung and the People's Liberation Army.

Formerly, under the Kuomintang regime, labor meetings were not tolerated and labor deputations to the managements were limited to only one or two. Now strong unions flourish and amalgamating of labor is encouraged. The factories with approximately 3,000 workers have one union chief over them, and he is answerable only to the Central People's Government Council. The 3,000 workers are then divided into small groups under deputy leaders and finally into groups

of about ten to fifteen under a steward.

Of course, this new method of arbitration between management and labor works two ways. It prevents the management from imposing on labor, but it also holds labor close to the C. P. G. C. Consequently, every worker is under surveillance. If he does not cooperate fully with the new "democracy" he must learn to, and if after a period of learning he is still of the same attitude, he is labeled a "reactionary" and is dismissed from employment.

### *Birth of Chinese People's Republic*

When the Chinese People's Political Consultative Council (C. P. P. C.) was officially opened at Peking on September 21, 1949, at 7 p.m., the opening speech was made by Chairman Mao Tze-tung. In his opening address Chairman Mao said: "The present C. P. P. C. in China is convoked on an entirely different basis [than that of the one conducted three years earlier with the Kuomintang]: it represents all the people and receives the support of the entire people. Therefore the C. P. P. C. has been declared to assume the responsibilities and functions of a national people's assembly. We have now accomplished these tasks. We have now united together, overthrown domestic and foreign oppressors through the people's war of liberation and the great people's revolution and declared the formation of a Chinese people's republic."

In concluding, Mao stated that China's population was estimated at 475 million persons covering an area of 9,597,000 square kilometers, that the Chinese people will emerge on the world as a nation of high cultural standard, and he said: "Our national defense will be consolidated, thereby preventing imperialists from invading our territory anymore. . . . We shall have not only a mighty army but also a mighty air force and a mighty navy. Let our domestic and foreign reactionary cliques tremble in front of us. . . . The undaunted spirit and ef-

forts of the Chinese peoples will definitely enable them to reach their goal."

Thus the Chinese People's Republic was born and would be celebrated on a city-wide scale in Shanghai and all other liberated cities in China on International Peace Day, October 2. It was to be a triple celebration covering the birth of the republic, International Peace Day, and the successful convening of the C. P. P. C.

Accordingly, Shanghai made great plans for the coming festive occasion. Mammoth demonstrations were to cover the entire city with torchlight parades at night. The national flag-raising ceremony was also scheduled to take place on October 2. The new flag has a large yellow star with a crescent of four smaller stars in the top left-hand corner, against a red background. The large star represents the Chinese Communist party and the four smaller stars denote labor, peasantry, petty bourgeois and national bourgeois.

Unfortunately for the celebrants, a heavy rain fell ceaselessly on the parade days of October 1-3, and Shanghai, a city lying low on a mud flat in the area where the Whangpoo river joins the Yangtse, had all its streets flooded in a short time. Waters rose from two to four feet in most areas of the city and literally washed out the celebrations for all but the extremely zealous! These zealous celebrants took part in a parade which lasted for fifteen hours and marched through the heavy rain and floods. When the floods abated entirely after four days, the mass parades were continued.

Prominent in all the parades was the display of four large portraits of Marshal Stalin, Sun Yat Sen, Mao Tze-tung, and Commander-in-Chief Chu Teh of the P. L. A.

Can we say with certainty that the enthusiasm of the parades marked the joy of the people on this triple occasion? Not altogether. It is a well-known fact

that the Chinese love parades of any kind, and pageants carried out on a spectacular scale are bound to excite them tremendously. One can say that the fascination of the cymbals and drums doubtless attracted the greater part of the youth of the city, while the workers and students were expected to "represent" themselves or they would have been missed and thought uncooperative. In general, however, a good time seemed to be had by all, participants and gaping crowds alike.

### *Why "Democratic Dictatorship"?*

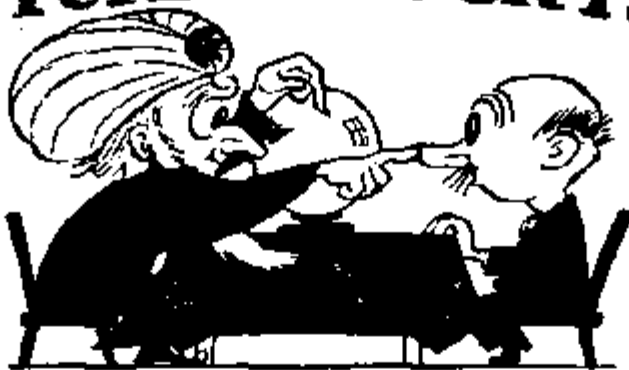
The People's Democratic Dictatorship of China has now come into its own. And, by the way, that "dictatorship", according to Mao Tze tung, is a "dictatorship" as far as reactionaries are concerned, because the reactionaries will have no voice to express their views. Opposition of any kind to the new Chinese People's Republic will not be tolerated.

Of course, the entire governmental structure is yet a babe. It will be most interesting to watch it grow. It has terrific problems to face. Even as this article is being completed, runaway currency inflation has begun anew. The U. S. dollar, which was JMP2,200 to one in May and June 1949, stands today at JMP5,100 to one. Financial worries are always big ones, but this is only one of the problems facing new China today.

Even as we watch this infant grow, we cannot help but realize that it is growing at the wrong time. The great Theocratic "man child" is now thirty-five years old, and will soon be rolling its divine power against all the democracies, dictatorships, republics and other human forms of government, to crush all the inherent forces of evil in order that the people of good-will in all nations may enjoy for a warless eternity the peaceful paradise of earth under the Theocratic "new heavens". We may well ask, "And where is the human dictator to withstand its eternal might?"



# IS YOUR FUTURE IN A CRYSTAL BALL?



**T**HE scientists have labored for many years building telescopes that aid in their study of the sun, moon and the stars. While they prepare data to enable them to talk about the stars, the fortunetellers supposedly tell what the stars say about people. It is amazing the way this ancient business has kept many in awe, and at the same time made many rich and influential men in this world. It is no wonder, then, that fortunetelling as a business has continued for thousands of years. As in the past, it is now a lucrative one.

This "science" is not a new one, nor is it harnessed to one method, allowing only a few to enjoy its harvest. A study shows a variety of methods of telling fortunes. The dreamer, for example, claimed to have divine influence to direct others. The cup also was supposed to have supernatural powers, and was kept in the family of the monarchs of old. In the cup the world was represented, past, present and future, and through the visions received in the cup the rulers had an understanding of events yet to occur.

The Arabs had their fortunes told by means of arrows. Three arrows, without heads or wings, were placed into a bag. Number one arrow contained the words, "Command me, Lord"; while the second read, "Forbid me, Lord." The third arrow was blank and if it was drawn the inquirer was to take another chance. If the first arrow was chosen, the one seeking a fortune was to go about his business; but the second one entitled him to a rest of a whole year.

The Bible also tells us about fortunetellers and how they made contacts with

the demons of the spirit world for messages. The witch of Endor was inquired of by Saul, the first king of the Israel-

ites, who feared what the future held in store for him. His hopes for a comforting message were shattered when he heard that the next war would be his last.

During that time period most of the nations permitted astrologers and crystal-gazers freedom in their trade, and it soon became widespread. The Greeks and the Assyrians had fortunetellers officially appointed by the government. These would not only read the stars but would also make predictions and calculations from the flight and formation of birds.

The Romans officially appointed their horoscopists. It was believed that these represented the goddess of fortune, Fortuna, that Fortuna ruled the universe with God, and that because of this relationship she was permitted to distribute fortune or misfortune to whomever she pleased. If this goddess took a liking to you, fortune was yours; but woe to you if you were on her misfortune list! In the capacity of ruler of the world, she was represented as having a double rudder in her hands. The one part of the rudder guided men to prosperity and power and the other part of the rudder steered them to ruin.

Years later the Greeks adopted this goddess and represented her as standing upon a wheel or ball with a blindfold about her eyes. To her worshipers this meant that luck rolls like a ball or wheel. At times it takes a roll to fortune for some, and at other times it undoes all the efforts of men. The chief worshipers of this goddess were newly married women.

About to give birth, they would seek a fortune-teller to learn what talents their offspring would possess.

The modern fortuneteller may not claim to represent the goddess of the heathen, but the folly of the art continues to spread far and wide. From the most highly educated to those of little or no training, rich and poor, people of all classes consult the clairvoyants, hoping to learn of riches or power or being relieved of their mental worries. Just as there are many seeking a fortune, so there are many telling fortunes. Their prices have been known to range from 50c to \$100, and up.

#### ***Often Prohibited by Law***

Many states look upon this as taking money under false pretenses. The state of New York, for example, declares through law: "Any prediction of future events for hire is prohibited. The Legislature has expressed its disbelief in human power to prophesy human events." In order to evade such laws, the fortunetellers call themselves "ministers" and use such names as "Cosmic Science" and "Spiritualist Church of the River Styx" to cover up what goes on in the reading rooms. Notwithstanding the high ranking titles they appropriate to themselves, they are still looked upon as "rogues", "vagrants" and "disorderly persons". Some states outlaw clairvoyancy and any persons caught violating the law are subject to a \$500 fine or six months in prison.

Other states have refused to spend money for a special squad of policemen to evict the fortuneteller from the state's domain; but, rather, the states thought that a special license fee would discourage the tellers of the future. Five hundred men and women showed a willingness to pay the fee and continue in their business.

Does this cheating of the law and the paying of fines and fees bring in a profit? According to some statistics there

are 80,000 fortunetellers in the United States, and the people of this country will pay a neat sum of \$200,000,000 this year, to have their fortunes told.

#### ***Tricky Methods***

The operations of the crafty diviner are just as surprising as the amount of money he makes. A number of investigators have been assigned to a study of this trade, and, in reading over their reports, we learn that fortunetelling is nothing more than trickery, fraud. The people have been led to believe that their future can be seen within the realm of the crystal ball waiting to be revealed by the "swami".

Many exposers of the fortunetellers were at one time among those claiming the power to foresee future events. One tells of the many clients he had. Most people, he reveals, look for a fortuneteller because of a worried mind. By asking personal questions and using a little psychology the seer soon knows what is on his client's mind. The future of the individual is then told through the use of ambiguous statements which any visitor can apply to himself any way he chooses. If through his questions the fortuneteller can get to know what is on the visitor's mind, the same information is then used as advice from the fortuneteller. Such ambiguous answers as "you are contemplating a change," or "you are involved in money". Sometimes you are "on a threshold" or "behind a locked door" or perhaps "you are being motivated into circles".

Characteristically all the fortunetellers are the same. According to one of the surveys, four interesting things were learned: (1) the fortunetellers were wrong in their forecasts and readings, as wrong in regard to the future as to the past and present; (2) they depended on conversational leads on questions asked the customer, and they asked fully as much as they told; (3) they used a canned chatter, varied slightly for all

comers, and (4) they frequently gave illegal, immoral or dangerous advice.

### ***Unhappy Cases***

Here is a good example of what the fortunetellers promise and how much they can be expected to deliver. Elmer the Great was willing to use his great talents to aid humanity, and, according to his advertisements, he could give you a peep into the future and help you gain your key to success. His announcement said that he could be consulted "on all conceivable affairs of human destiny". Elmer claimed to have the answer to all family troubles, or he could give you the name of your future husband or wife. With his excellent mind he could tell you your mother's maiden name or your street address. He could locate property that had been lost or stolen, or perhaps locate relatives you would like to find. For your past, present and future, Elmer would have an answer. And yet he could not look into the future far enough to see that he was going to be in a Michigan jail charged with being a disorderly person, within two days after his arrival there!

Going to a fortuneteller or a stargazer is being as superstitious as the man that went to the doctor of voodoo hoping to gain a fortune. This gentleman was interested in the policy racket, which, if he could guess the right number, would make him wealthy. The witch doctor claimed she could make him invisible and thus allow him to enter the policy room, read the lucky number before it was chosen, and thereby win his fortune. Before this could be done he must follow directions, which were as follows: kill a black cat at midnight, hoil it, cut off its tail, put the bone of the tail into his mouth, and the fortune seeker would be invisible. Cost? One bone of a cat's tail plus twenty dollars for the advice.

Thinking himself to be invisible, this proud, rich-man-to-be walked bravely in-

to the policy room. Alas! he was tossed out bodily by the men who saw his "invisible" body!

Penetrating the future has always been and shall continue to be a futile job for men. It is true, men of distinction such as the politicians seek information concerning elections. Some businessmen cater to the crystal-gazers for stock market reports, just as the common man seeks to know of a happier, more prosperous tomorrow. Some of the predictions may come true, but that does not mean that the fortuneteller has a supernatural power and is always right. The information given at fifty cents or a hundred dollars is no more reliable than the fortune card you can get for a penny each time you weigh yourself on scales in front of a drugstore.

### ***End of Fortunetelling***

"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." (Luke 21:26) Fear of the future is no license to seek consolation at the hands of imperfect men, because perfect love casts out all fear. If Jehovah God wanted those that love Him to seek fortunetellers He would have used them in the days of old rather than His prophets. The contrary held true: Jehovah cursed the fortunetelling astrologers and stargazers, and blessed the prophets and all that listened, because they abode by the Word of the Lord.—1 John 4:18; Isaiah 47:13, 14.

The Word of God has been recorded that we might gain a knowledge of the purposes of the Almighty, and this Word opens to us a great knowledge of a future of everlasting life for all who obey Jehovah. No man can tell what the morrow will bring. (Proverbs 27:1) Jehovah God does tell us of a thousand years of tomorrow, complete with a happy family life, free from all troubles. That being the case, there will be no place for the useless fortunetellers of today.



### God's Word or Man's—Which?

**M**ORE and more the eyes of honest-hearted men and women are getting open to see the world's religious confusion and the inconsistency of the religious leaders who say one thing and do another. Thinking that those religionists represent and speak for God, many sincere persons begin to wonder if any truth at all exists on earth. They come to the frame of mind of a man of old who wrote in his disappointment: "I indeed said in my despondency, Every man is a liar." (Psalm 116:11, *Leeser*) They are discouraged and sigh within themselves. Doubtless, though, when they hear the pure ring of truth sounding forth from the right source, despite earth's religious jangling, they will recognize it and will gladly accept and hold it.

The vast universe which we see is founded upon truth, and therefore it moves on orderly and undisturbed regardless of the waywardness of men on earth. Its Creator is the great God of truth. He is the One whom the peoples of Christendom have all claimed to worship in common, but their centuries-old religious differences, quarrels and errors have brought reproach upon both Him and the written Word which He has given to mankind. The bewildered seekers for truth have in many cases said in hopelessness: "Oh, the Bible is an old fiddle upon which you can play any old tune." If true, that would mean that the Bible's Author was all mixed up.

But this could not be so of the God whose visible creation of the universe is marvelously harmonious and not divided

against itself. Reasonably, then, His Book, the Bible, could not be all mixed up and allowing for just any interpretation. The mix-up lies with its would-be interpreters, the religious leaders of this so-called Christendom, who disagree among themselves, and violently so at times. Hence, as the reader approaches a study of the Bible he should not have any preconceived notions according to the perplexing, mysterious religious errors of Christendom. He should study what God himself has to say in His own Word and form opinion based upon the sure foundation of God's Word. "For God is not a God of confusion, but of peace." —1 Corinthians 14:33, *Am. Stan. Ver.*

To arrive at truth we must dismiss religious prejudices from heart and mind. We must let God speak for himself. Any other course would lead only to further confusion. What if men, religious and nonreligious, have discredited and belittled the Bible and have placed their own or other men's opinions and traditions above the Bible? What if religious leaders have rejected the Bible's straight testimony? What if the highly esteemed clergy of Christendom have been found false and misleading? Do these shocking and disappointing facts change the Bible itself or its message of truth? Sound thinking assures us that the true and living God must have given searching mankind some inspired written revelation about himself. That being so, then let our stand be that of one of the writers of the Bible who said: "What if some were without faith? shall their want of faith make of none effect the faithfulness of God? God forbid: yea, let God

be found true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy words, and mightest prevail when thou comest into judgment."—Romans 3:3, 4, *Am. Stan. Ver.*

If we let God be true, He will instruct us in the truth by His recorded Word. To let God be true means to let God have the say as to what is the truth that makes men free. It means to accept His Word, the Bible, as the truth. Hence appeal should be made to the Bible for truth. What is believed concerning God and His purposes should be backed up from the Bible for truthfulness and reliability. That is the course the inspired writers and faithful characters of the Bible took and recommended. Isaiah, an outstanding prophet, writes to this effect: "To the law rather, and to the testimony. And if they speak not according to this word, they shall not have the morning light."—Isaiah 8:20, *Douay.*

There is no light of truth in the teachings of the men of this world who are under the influence of superhuman invisible demons, wicked spirits that are primarily responsible for the darkness of this world. Unless we seek direct to the law and testimony of God's written Word, we shall never attain to the light whose beams show that the morning of a new world of righteousness is at hand.

Malachi, the very last of the old Hebrew prophets, pointed in the same direction as Isaiah, to the written Word of God. Said he as an inspired spokesman for God: "Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, whom I commanded on Horeb for all Israel, statutes and ordinances." (Malachi 3:22, *Leeser*) The writings of the prophet Moses make up the first five books of the present-day Bible; and thus the last of the old Hebrew prophets declares himself in agreement with the very first of the Bible writers who preceded him by more than a thousand years. All the writers in between Moses and Malachi take the same position.

MARCH 8, 1950

None of the Bible writers, from Malachi back to Moses, make any mention of an oral law or traditional law as existing alongside the written Word of God. Nowhere do they declare that the oral traditions of religious men are on an equality with the recorded Word of God or that the written Word is incomplete without such oral traditions. The prophet Moses earnestly declared against adding to God's given law and testimony the oral traditions of uninspired men. Said Moses: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, nor shall ye diminish aught from it; that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."—Deuteronomy 4:2, *Leeser.*

God's written Word is pure without such man-made traditions; and those who value them as equal to or even higher than the written Word make liars of themselves. "Every saying of God is purified: he is a shield unto those that put their trust in him. Do not add aught unto his words: lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."—Proverbs 30:5, 6, *Leeser.*

God caused His prophet Isaiah to speak out in strong words against those who claim to be God's people but who practice hypocrisy by following the precepts and traditions of men rather than the inspired Scriptures. "And the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is but the acquired precept of men: therefore, behold, I will do yet farther a marvellous work with this people, doing wonder on wonder; so that the wisdom of their wise men shall be lost, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden."—Isaiah 29:13, 14, *Leeser.*

Then choose God's Word and not man's. Let God's Word speak for Him, and not the false traditions and creeds of Christendom's religions.

# Riots Set Nigeria Ablaze!

By "Awake!" correspondent in Nigeria

**C**OAL mining is an important industry in Nigeria, the greatest and most populous of all the British colonies. The city of Enugu is not only the country's coal capital, where the collieries are located, but also the political capital of the Eastern provinces. As a consequence, labor troubles in the coal fields are quickly translated into political issues, and vice versa. This was particularly demonstrated during November, when ugly scenes of violence and bloodshed in Enugu touched off a series of riots in many other parts of the country.

The collieries are government-owned and employ about 6,500 men. Annually these dig out about 600,000 tons of coal, half of which is used by the Nigerian railway. The remainder is consumed by power stations, etc., and some is exported and sold to the Gold Coast railway system. For the past three years there have been continual disputes between management and union leaders over wages and working conditions. Wage increases granted during this time give miners an average of 6s/6d per shift, or about £6-12s (\$18.50) a month. According to wage standards in the Western world, this seems very small indeed, but compared with the wickedly low wages most Africans receive, or compared with the low wages paid Rhodesian miners, Nigeria's coal miners are quite well paid.

However, demands were made for a raise in pay of two shillings and one sixpence per shift, plus a further claim that coal bawers are entitled to some £80,000 back pay. A flat refusal on the part of the management to meet these demands brought on a "go slow" strike on November 7. This reduced the output of coal to 25 percent of normal. A few days later the mine management began dismissing strikers and ejecting them from colliery-owned houses. Angry crowds gathered

outside the offices and tear gas was used to disperse them. The next day two transport planes landed police reinforcements at Enugu to guarantee peace and order.

Like the spark that lit the torch that set Rome on fire, so was this preliminary trouble. The real violence followed. On November 18, irate miners armed with crowbars, picks and other implements, got into an argument with the police at the Iva Valley mine, and before it was over 18 miners were killed and 31 others were wounded. Some of the latter died later in the hospital. Spreading throughout the country like wildfire, the news of this incident quickly ignited anti-British political powder-kegs. The series of explosive riots that followed rocked the entire country of Nigeria, and even brought members of the London government hurrying to the scene.

## *Riot Flames Licked at Our Heels*

The morning of November 23 this writer and his traveling companion happened to be in Aba, a town some 150 miles south of Enugu. The day before, the local leaders of the Zikist political party at Aba had delivered several inflammatory speeches, proclaiming the 23rd a "day of mourning" for the dead and wounded at Enugu. Caught, as it were, in this strife's path of violence, we were eyewitnesses of ugly rioting and looting as the mob swept through town. It was 7:30 in the morning, and we had just finished our breakfast at the restaurant of the government resthouse, when a telephone call came from the local authority, advising that rioting had broken out in town, and that an attack was shortly expected on the European quarter where the resthouse was situated.

Not many minutes passed before shouting and sounds of a general commotion became audible, and the angry mob



entered the resthouse grounds. Showers of stones were thrown and a brick came crashing through the windshield of a parked car. However, we lost no time in moving our automobile to safety behind the building. In the meantime a contingent of police came up from behind the mob and turned them away, much to our relief. Widespread looting then broke out and several European stores were broken into and swept clean, telephones being damaged and typewriters and office equipment stolen.

News then came through that another attack was expected on the European quarter, so we decided to leave town while there was an opportunity to escape. We hated to do this, for our party was divided. Two of our African members were cut off by the mob in town and there was no way of contacting them. We therefore drove out of town only about five miles. As we passed along the road, groups of enraged townspeople made threatening gestures and shouted angry words, for the disturbance seemed to be essentially anti-European more than anything else, and the sight of a white man was enough to provoke anger regardless of who he might be.

After waiting several hours we cautiously returned to town, hoping to be able to contact the rest of our party and all get away together. Passing through the European quarter, now quiet, and getting near the post office, we stopped to ask a group of African police whether it was safe to go into town in search of the rest of our party. We were assured that it was. However, a few hundred yards farther on we saw a menacing crowd, numbering probably in the thousands, milling around the main streets and making much noise and commotion. The time it would take to turn our car around would have permitted the crowd to surround us on all sides. So the only way out was forward!

Charging through, blowing the horn

continuously, we ran the gauntlet amid showers of stones, and by God's grace we got through unharmed even though one shot was fired at us. When we stopped some way beyond the mob, they came after us again, so we swung around through a back street and returned to the European quarter. From there we observed a line of police, advancing down the main road with fixed bayonets, and, shortly after, the sound of gunfire was heard. Later we learned that another rioter had been killed. Repeated baton charges together with tear gas were also used to disperse the mob.

That afternoon we were advised that all Europeans were to be gathered at one point for their protection during the night. But we decided that it was safer for us to leave by driving out about 17 miles. The following morning we returned, found our lost members and departed in peace. Later, we learned that after we left further rioting and looting had occurred, with more casualties. Enugu and Aba were not the only scenes of violence during those days of conflagration. Port Harcourt, forty miles south of Aba; Onitsha, on the River Niger; Calabar, about 75 miles east of Port Harcourt, and Lagos, the capital of the country, were all points of disorder and incendiary rioting.

### *Putting Out the Fires*

Conditions were so bad that a temporary state of emergency was declared by the governor on November 26. This measure empowered local authorities to detain and search persons without warrant, invoke curfews when necessary, impose press censorship and ban public meetings and processions. A commission of inquiry was also appointed to investigate the miners' grievances as well as the riots.

Echoes of these riots were heard in far-off England, where the colonial secretary, the Right Honorable Arthur

Creech-Jones, made an official statement before British Parliament on the Nigerian labor troubles. Various questions were then propounded, one of which suggested that the disturbances had been fomented from outside Nigeria, probably by Russia. The suggestion, however, was emphatically denied. Another member, Mr. Platts Mills, came out with this question: "Is the Right Honourable gentleman now aware that if he treats coal miners like cattle he is bound to have trouble? If this is so prosperous a colony why cannot we see that these men are paid at least the five shillings they are asking for?" This brought the following reply from the colonial secretary: "I wish before the honourable gentleman puts questions of the kind he has, that he would acquaint himself with the most elementary facts regarding Nigeria."

One only has to visit the living quarters of the Enugu miners, as this writer

has done, to appreciate that perhaps Mr. Platts Mills has more knowledge of the "elementary facts regarding Nigeria" than the colonial secretary would like to think. After a personal inspection, an impartial observer will agree that the comparison with cattle is not greatly exaggerated.

This labor violence in Nigeria is just one of many such incidents now taking place in this crumbling old world, and is further evidence that the "distress of nations, with perplexity" long ago foretold in God's Word the Bible is coming to pass in these last days. (Luke 21:25) As with other peoples, the Nigerians' hope lies, not in temporary improvements in working conditions and increased pay from the powers of this world, but in the new world of God's building, which is now the certain hope of all men of good-will, both here and abroad.

## Will Our Earth Burn?

That there will some day be a new earth is assured by God's promise, "I create new heavens and a new earth." (Isaiah 65:17) Some envision the literal burning of our planet to make way for the new, and threats of atomic warfare chill them with fear of the earth's destruction.

Much comfort comes from knowing that God has not purposed to burn our earthly home, for He has also promised, "The earth abideth for ever." (Ecclesiastes 1:4) But how, then, can a new earth be formed? What will it be like? Who will live upon it? These and many other questions relative to the earth and its prospects are answered in the 320 page book *"Let God Be True"*, available on a contribution of only 35c.



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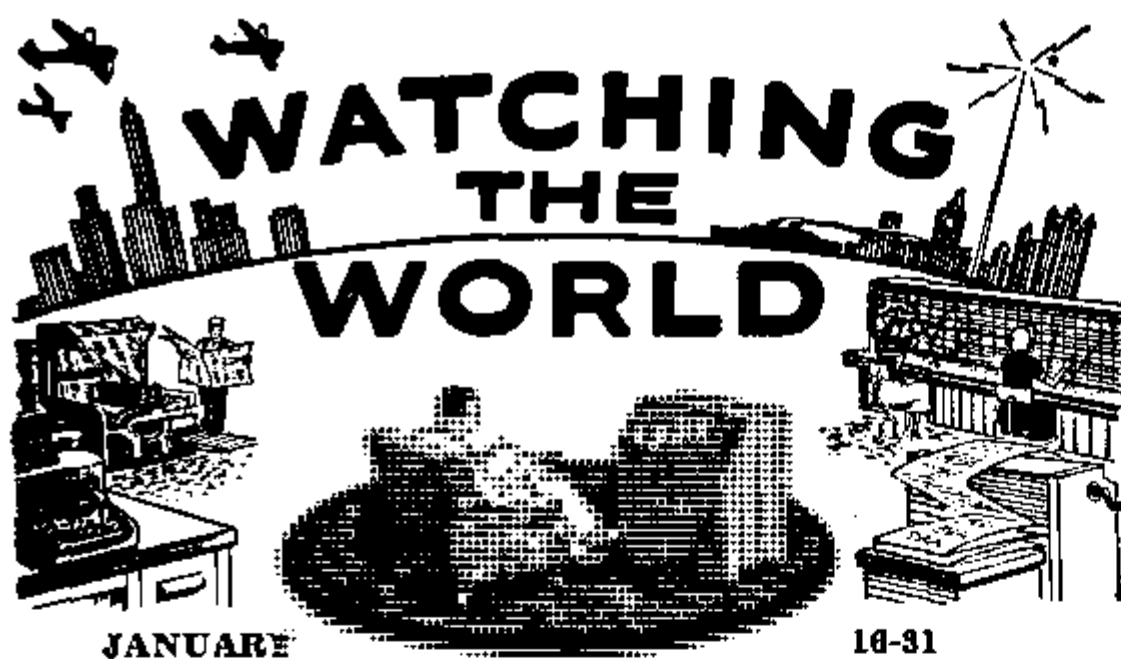
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### The Hydrogen Bomb

◆ Top news in late January centered around the so-called hydrogen bomb, calling to mind what was "accomplished" by the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima (8/6/45). Casualties were 78,150 dead, 37,425 injured, 13,983 missing. The new type of bomb, called variously the hydrogen bomb, triton bomb, super-bomb and hell-bomb, would be many times as powerful, theoretically could be a thousand times as powerful, and would spread devastation over three or four hundred square miles, or ten miles in every direction. The question was, Should the bomb be built, regardless of immense expense? President Truman indicated he would be the one to decide that. At length (1/31) he came out with the statement: "It is part of my responsibility as Commander in Chief of the armed forces to see to it that our country is able to defend itself against any possible aggressor. Accordingly, I have directed the Atomic Energy Commission to continue its work on all forms of atomic weapons, including the so-called hydrogen or super-bomb." This indicated the president considered work on the great bomb already begun. His order was generally applauded by national leaders.

### Sino-Soviet Relations

◆ Backing up Secretary of State Dean Acheson's charge that the Soviet is detaching and control-

ling the northernmost provinces of China, the State Department (1/25) released information to the effect that "despite the fiction of the Independent Mongolian People's Republic, the Soviet dominates Outer Mongolia, and Soviet troops are stationed there. Trade is completely monopolized by the U. S. S. R. Manchuria is run by a Sino-Soviet partnership, with Soviet influence in military affairs recognized even by Chinese communists. The U. S. S. R. has special navigation, fishing and air rights, and operates industrial and power plants in several cities. Permission has been sought and may have been granted to station Soviet troops in Sinkiang".

Meanwhile Chinese communist leader Mao Tze-tung was in Moscow on a very protracted visit. At the month's end a delegation from Sinkiang, China's westernmost province, arrived in Moscow to take part in the negotiations begun by Mao Tze-tung, to incorporate in the Soviet bloc the 463,000,000 population of China. The Soviet was reported to be seeking complete control of seven north-China ports, as well as a labor force of 500,000 Chinese to serve its ends. It also called for increases in shipments of foods, although famine is now spreading in China. Other demands rather put Mao on the spot, who countered, however, with a request for a loan of \$2,500,000,000 and military supplies.

### Aid to Korea

◆ Some prominence was given in the news to the failure of the U. S. House of Representatives to continue aid to Korea (1/19). It was characterized as a stinging foreign policy defeat for the Truman administration, but was, of course, a greater blow for Korea. The \$60,000,000 aid provision was vitally necessary for the struggling Far Eastern republic. In the Senate a drive was begun to save the Korean aid measure.

### Taylor Resigns

◆ The resignation of Myron C. Taylor came (1/18) as expected, and was accepted by President Truman, who the following day recalled to Washington "for consultation" Franklin C. Gowen, who had been acting as assistant to Taylor. Just what has been accomplished by Taylor during the ten years he has occupied the rather mysterious post remains largely in the field of vague generalities. Audiences with the pope, usually called private, were secret. The whole business was most distasteful to Americans of all creeds, Catholics excepted. Persecution of Protestants in Italy has intensified this feeling. Protestants in America pointed out Mr. Taylor's complete ignorance of the Protestants' situation in Italy, where they were falsely accused by the Vatican of helping the communist cause.

### Recognizing Franco

◆ Secretary of State Acheson advised congressional foreign policy leaders (1/19) that the U. S. was ready to support a United Nations resolution freeing each power in that body to restore diplomatic relations with Franco Spain. If the U. N. resolution of 1946 barring such relations is canceled, then the U. S. would send an ambassador back to Madrid. This, said the secretary, "would in no sense signify approval of the regime in Spain." "It would merely . . . return to normal practice in exchanging diplomatic representation." Vatican pressure was seen to be

back of this move. It was deplored by labor leaders. Both British and French foreign offices stated that they would not be willing to join the U. S. in the effort to rehabilitate Franco.

#### **Arms Aid Facts Signed**

◆ President Truman proclaimed the North Atlantic joint defense pact in effect (1/27), and representatives at Washington of eight Western European governments signed agreements which would enable them to receive \$1,000,000,000 in U. S. arms and equipment. The agreement requires that the assistance be used in integration of defense of the North Atlantic area and in line with defense plans under the North Atlantic Treaty organization.

#### **"Equal Rights" for Women**

◆ The U. S. Senate adopted the Equal Rights Amendment (1/25) by a 63-19 vote, but with a rider retaining protective laws for women. Campaigners for the measure joyously hailed the move in the corridors of the Senate building.

#### **U. S. Coal Dispute**

◆ Finally taking up the troublesome coal dispute, involving at the month's end over 100,000 miners, President Truman sought (1/31) a 70-day truce, during which the miners were to return to full-time work, and a board of inquiry would study the situation, which had developed into a three-sided controversy. The miners had ostensibly been ignoring the "suggestion" of their leader, John L. Lewis, to continue the three-day week, and went on strike altogether.

#### **Rights and Rules in Congress**

◆ President Truman reported (1/17) that he had received the assurance of Democratic leaders in the Senate that a vote would be taken on the civil rights measures he advocates, "if it takes all summer." Filibustering from southern senators has thus far prevented action on these provisions for the protection of the

rights of citizens. The administration's program includes repeal of the poll tax, an antilynching law and a federal fair employment practice act. A victory for the administration was seen in refusal to restore to the rules committee power to bottle up legislation. By a vote of 236-183 the House voted (1/20) to continue restriction of committee power to pigeonhole bills.

#### **Alger Hiss Convicted**

◆ A federal grand jury convicted (1/21) former state department official Alger Hiss on two counts of perjury. The decision of the jury (composed of eight women and four men) was that Hiss lied when he denied giving Whittaker Chambers, his accuser, top-secret state department papers for a prewar Soviet spy ring. Hiss was given a five-year sentence. An immediate appeal was filed by his counsel. At Washington Secretary of State Acheson, a friend, said, "I do not intend to turn my back on Alger Hiss," and misapplied Scripture in seeking to explain his attitude by citing Matthew 25:34-40.

#### **Legion's Anti-Communist Move**

◆ On the closing day (1/30) of the two-day "All-American Conference" at the Astor hotel, New York, sponsored by the American Legion, representatives of national organizations with a claimed combined membership of 50,000,000 voted unanimously to establish a permanent organization to combat communism in the U. S. Geo. N. Craig, national commander of the Legion, stressed the role of religion in the fight on communism and invited all loyal Americans to join it. In their resolution the 160 conferees said, "World communism is the greatest present threat to domestic security and peace on earth, and its No. 1 targets are God and our American way of life."

#### **British Election**

◆ As the British Labor party issued its election manifesto, setting forth its nationalizing aims,

Winston Churchill, leader of the Conservatives, countered by accusing the Labor government of wasting U. S. aid funds, and being generally incompetent, as well as plotting to enslave the nation. He said the Labor government was seeking power over fellow Britons "such as no British government has ever sought before".

#### **Historical Relics Found**

◆ Lost for seven hundred years, the crown of King Alfonso X, together with other jewels, was discovered three years ago. But the find was not made public until mid-January of this year. Spanish archaeologists have been allowed to open tombs in recent years which have yielded these and other valuable relics.

#### **France Protests Soviet Move**

◆ France strenuously objected to Soviet recognition of Ho Chi Minh, Indo-Chinese communist leader, and sent a note of protest (1/31) expressing its resentment that the Soviet should recognize an insurrectional government in France's colonial possession of Indo-China. France itself has recognized Bao Dai as the head of the Viet Nam regime.

#### **Saar Controversy**

◆ Western Germany in mid-January made public its claim to the rich coal mines of the Saar. These statements came in sharp rejoinder to French moves in the region to link it more fully to France. Chancellor Adenauer declared boldly that the Saar mines, which France hopes to lease for fifty years, were the property of the West German state because its constitution said that all property of the Third Reich belonged to the German Federal Republic, and the Western Allies had approved that constitution. The Saar government announced (1/20) drastic measures aimed at protecting the region from any propaganda campaign to return it to Germany. Action on these repressive measures, however, was postponed, since they threat-

ened freedom of speech and of the press.

#### **Bonn Invited to Send Consuls**

◆ Chancellor Konrad Adenauer was invited by the Western Allies (1/26) to send consuls general to London, Washington and Paris without delay, and so establish the first official and permanent West German representation abroad. The invitation was extended on behalf of the three powers by the British high commissioner.

#### **Little Berlin Blockade**

◆ In Berlin it seemed that the Russians were about to impose another blockade, though of minor extent. Hampering restrictions on traffic to and from Berlin were being instituted in late January. The Western powers' representatives formally protested the holding up of traffic, particularly non-military.

#### **President Paasikivi's Election**

◆ Complete returns in the Finnish elections showed that the 79-year-old President Juho K. Paasikivi had been re-elected for another six-year term. Actually the electoral college will choose the president, but the popular balloting (1/18) showed 172 of that 300-member body were pledged to Paasikivi.

#### **Bulgarian Incident**

◆ The U. S. minister to Bulgaria (Donald R. Heath), for some time out of favor in that country, was practically invited to "get out", a note being sent to Washington stating that he was no longer acceptable to Bulgaria's Communist government, and demanding his recall. Charges had been made against Heath that he had received secret government information from Traicho Kostov, former deputy premier of Bulgaria, who was convicted of spying for the U. S. and executed last December. Heath said he had never exchanged a word with Kostov, and his denial was published throughout Bulgaria at the insistence of the

U. S. government. But Bulgarian papers continued to say editorially that the U. S. minister had deliberately lied. The U. S. told Bulgaria (1/20) to withdraw the demand for Heath's recall from Sofia, stating that a complete break in relations was the alternative.

#### **Ten-Year Plan for Italy**

◆ Premier Gasperi of Italy announced (1/19) a ten-year plan for developing southern Italy and other depressed areas. An annual expenditure of 100,000,000,000 lire (\$160,000,000) is called for, and will finance special public works.

#### **Cyprus Seeks Union with Greece**

◆ The Greek population of Cyprus voted 95.7 percent to break connections with Britain and join Greece. The voting was conducted by and in the Orthodox churches of the island, which has been a British possession for 72 years. The vote was called an unofficial referendum by the church. The British governor flatly refused to consider this "popular" demonstration.

#### **Jerusalem the Capital**

◆ The Knesset (Parliament) of Israel passed a proclamation (1/23) establishing that Jerusalem has been the capital of the new state since its formation well over a year ago. Welcoming the return of the Knesset to Jerusalem, the proclamation called for the speedy erection of government buildings there.

#### **India Proclaimed a Republic**

◆ The splendor amid which India was proclaimed a republic (1/26) contrasted sharply with the abject poverty in which millions of its people still live. Officials and princes from all directions attended and watched Dr. Rajendra Prasad take the oath as the republic's first president. After the formalities the president drove in state to Irwin Stadium for public observance of the occasion. The grand procession passed beneath fourteen great

arches, each bearing a verse from the sacred book of the Hindu religion, inscribed in the fourteen official Indian languages. The day also marked the constitution's coming into effect, bringing democratic rights to India's 320,000,000 citizens, a seventh of the world's population.

#### **Home Rule for Surinam**

◆ Surinam, or Dutch Guiana, was given home rule by the Netherlands (1/21) as a new constitution was promulgated, giving the country's 207,000 inhabitants control of their own internal affairs. Later it is expected to join Curacao and Aruba with Surinam to form one state within the Netherlands union under the crown.

#### **Eva Perón Better, Trains Stop**

◆ A demonstration of creature-worship was put on in Argentina when it was announced that Señora Eva Perón had her appendix removed and was doing all right. All trains in Argentina stopped for ten minutes (1/17) as an expression of sympathy.

#### **Russians Walk Out on U. N.**

◆ In mid-January Soviet Union representatives walked out of various U. N. agencies and meetings in protest against the continued membership of Nationalist China. Polish and Czechoslovak representatives joined them in a number of cases. Mr. Malik of the U. S. S. R. walked out on U. N. atomic negotiations (1/19) and brought the Big Five closed-door discussions to a close for the time being.

#### **Polish Envoy Quits**

◆ Dr. Aleksander W. Rudzinski, who was a counselor to Poland's U. N. delegation, resigned his job (1/18), charging that the Soviet was stripping his country of freedom and independence. He requested asylum in the United States, addressing a letter to Secretary of State Acheson, saying, "I cannot associate myself with walkouts calculated to paralyze and disrupt the United Nations."

# What Should We Believe?



Studious thought and careful reflection are not always sufficient to determine what is true. Untruths often repeated and couched in appealing language are all too frequently accepted as reliable. Some information sources long thought trustworthy have been proved otherwise. And even past ideas used as a basis for comparison may not always be correct. Never before has it been so important to know the truth as in these momentous days; yet, what should we believe?

To sift that which is worthy of belief from the overwhelming volume of chaff calls for a source of truth of unquestionable integrity. God's Word the Bible is such a source; and although its meaning is often concealed from the casual or cynical reader, vital truths essential to lovers of truth and righteousness are regularly and systematically called to attention through the columns of

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