

AWAKE!

Shall America

Finance Catholic Schools?

Not a religious issue, but one involving democratic freedoms

Fashion Enslaves the Male

Every age of history has had its peculiarities of male attire

Yosemite, Divine Masterpiece

The sublime grandeur of a world-renowned, magnificent valley

Only God Can Make a Brain

Man cannot fathom its intricacies



AUGUST 8, 1947

SEMIMONTHLY

THE MISSION OF THIS JOURNAL

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AWAKE!

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

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Number 15

Shall America Finance Catholic Schools?

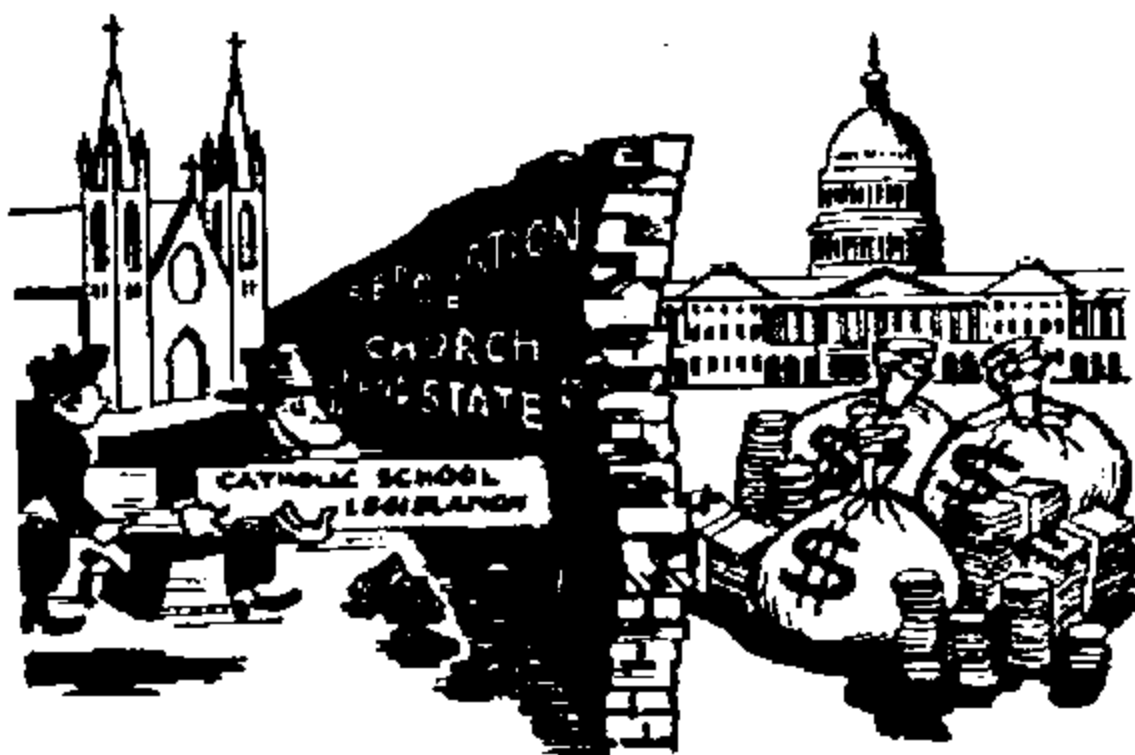
WAKE up, Americans! Be you Catholics, Protestants or Jews, it is high time for you to awaken to the impending danger that threatens not only your liberty and freedom, but also your very life! This is not a sectarian issue. The issue is not Catholicism versus Protestantism. Rather, the issue is between democratic freedom, liberty and education and totalitarian oppression, censorship and ignorance; democratic institutions vs. church-state control; freedom-loving American citizens vs. ruthless agents of a foreign power. It may startle those who are asleep to learn that this issue is wrapped up in the question: "Shall America finance Catholic schools?"

On February 10 of this year, the Supreme Court, in its blundering school-bus decision, ruled that public tax money could be used to support parochial schools. (See *Awake!* April 8, 1947.)

Since then pressure has been put upon Congress to pass legislation granting federal aid to Catholic schools. The Aiken bill calls for an appropriation of \$60,000,000 every year to non-public tax-exempt schools under the control of the pa-

pal Hierarchy, while the Taft bill, though not as magnanimous, offers religious schools whatever aid the individual states are already granting them. The effect of the Supreme Court decision and this pending legislation has been explosive. Those who are mentally alert, seeing in these events a battering-ram which is being used to beat further openings in the wall of separation between church and state, have cried out in alarm. In answer, sponsors of this legislation charge that those who oppose it are "bigots" who show discrimination and deny freedom of worship to American Catholics. Day after day the pros and cons of this issue have appeared in periodicals and daily newspaper articles. In view of this, it behooves every fair-minded Catholic, Protestant and Jew to consider the issues involved in order to determine the full significance and ultimate outcome of giving federal aid to religious schools.

Among those who are called "bigots" is Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, president of the Federal Council of Churches, who declared that the use of public funds to support parochial education "would seriously weaken the



public system which is the bulwark of democracy". The Committee on Christian Relations for the Presbyterian Church in the United States also has similarly protested, saying: "By violating the principle of the separation of church and state it would jeopardize many of our historic and priceless Constitutional liberties." Such legislation, the committee said, would be accepted as "an open invitation to go on tapping tax money for other Roman Catholic activities whenever its political power permits". Others joining in the protest and hence qualifying as Catholic-branded "bigots" included Rabbi Steven S. Wise, the Northern Baptist Convention, the National Parent Teachers Association, the Masons, the United Lutheran Synod, the Southern Baptist Convention, and many others.

Other so-called "bigots" are the Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court Rutledge, Frankfurter, Burton, and Jackson, who dissented in the New Jersey transportation case. Justice Jackson said: "Catholic education is the rock on which the whole structure rests, and to render tax aid to its church school is indistinguishable to me from rendering the same aid to the church itself." Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, those stalwart pillars of freedom, because they fought so hard to give Americans their Bill of Rights, also qualify to Vatican agents as "bigots".

Bigotry at Its Best

One of the loudest voices in the chorus of pseudo-Americans that call defenders of the Constitution "bigots" is that of Cardinal Spellman. Speaking at the commencement exercises of the Fordham University on June 11, as reported by the New York Times, Spellman said that those who protested against using federal funds for Catholic schools were "un-American and unchristian" and were preaching a crusade of bigotry. What is this? Is it un-American to protest against the encroachments of a foreign

power that seeks to destroy American institutions of democracy? Or is it unchristian to speak the truth which exposes to public view the subtle and criminal attack of Vatican fascists, who, like vipers, seek to first poison and then to kill free and liberal institutions? Or is it a crusade of bigotry when great numbers of Americans, becoming alarmed at such brazen attacks upon their institutions, rise up in open protest?

Be it noted that those who are sponsoring this federal money grab are not the Catholic people, but their greedy shepherds. Hence, the protest is not against the Catholic people as such. In fact, honest Catholics who love American freedoms and democratic institutions above anything else are numbered among those that are opposed to the political activity of the Hierarchy. Protestant groups made this point clear when they said they were stirred by the "political activities of the members of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy who, as representatives of a foreign power, the Vatican State, have been carrying on unceasing propaganda and utilizing continuous and insistent pressure on press and radio and state and federal officials to break down our United States Constitutional guarantee of separation of church and state." And another said: "This is decidedly un-American and we are opposed to the idea. To support parochial schools with public funds can mean only one thing, namely, the public maintenance of a system of education whose primary purpose is the teaching of the Catholic religion. This is a violation of the First Amendment of our Constitution, which provided for the separation of church and state."

Arch Enemies of Public Schools

The Catholic Hierarchy has made no effort to hide its hatred of the American public school system. The "Reverend Brother" B. Thomas, president of Manhattan College, speaking at the com-

mencement exercises of La Salle Military School, said that non-sectarian schools were "unmoral, unchristian and un-American". He urged the graduates to go on to higher education, but told them that if such was obtained in non-sectarian colleges it was "not worthy of the name".

Any that would hold such hatred of the American public school system as this are privileged, under the provisions of the Constitution, to establish their own schools, but it would be a travesty of justice to insult taxpayers by telling them that their public school system is "un-American" and then force them to pay money for the support of an institution directed by representatives of a foreign power! In the words of Thomas Jefferson: "To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical." Let no Jesuit debater pick up these words of Jefferson and argue from them that Catholics are under tyranny because their taxes are used for the support of public schools. These schools do not indulge in religious teachings, and hence do not propagate opinions which Catholics disbelieve.

Catholic leaders object that it is not they that desire to circumvent the Bill of Rights but rather the opposers to federal aid for the parochial schools. They maintain that refusing such aid is an act of discrimination and therefore a denial of freedom of worship. But can Catholics truthfully say they are denied freedom of worship in the United States? They are free to carry on their religion in whatever way they desire without the slightest intervention of the state. Surely the granting to them of freedom does not entail supporting the practice of it. Suppose a man were not satisfied with the police protection offered by his city and employed a concern of private detectives to care for his interests. According to Catholic reason-

ing, refusal of the city to pay part of his incurred expense would constitute a denial of police protection, despite the fact that the municipal police force was always ready to serve him as it was any other person in the city.

Vatican's Long-Range Plans

Some may argue that, for the sake of peace and unity, why quibble over a few million dollars of federal tax money? They will say, give the parochial schools sufficient funds to maintain their upkeep and we will have spiritual unity. But is this sound reasoning? Or is it an illusion that will lead to ultimate disaster? A sober consideration of the facts will show that such a course would be suicidal. The Roman Catholic Hierarchy has a long-range program the details of which are known to only its inner sanctum and which program is carried on outwardly by Catholic Action.

Look north to our neighboring country Canada if you want to see to what extent the Roman Catholic Hierarchy will dip into public funds once they are given the right to do so by legislation. Bear in mind that Canada is not a wealthy country like the United States. Yet, on May 9 of this year press reports in Quebec reported how the legislature of that province had granted the seminary at Joliette \$100,000. On the 16th, another \$50,000 was voted to the Roman Catholic University of Ottawa, though it is in the neighboring province of Ontario. Then, on the 24th of April it was reported that the Quebec province will make a gift of \$100,000 to the Sherbrooke Seminary. It is, therefore, certain that as Catholic power in a given country grows stronger it demands greater funds for its support, until ultimately it reaches its goal as it has done in Spain and Portugal, where the state bears up and supports the church, which rides high and mighty over the people.

That this is the ultimate goal of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy in this mat-

ter of procuring federal funds for its schools, we note what a Catholic priest once wrote in his book entitled *The Parochial School* (1905), page 83:

I have had many conversations with members of the American Catholic Hierarchy during the past eighteen years about the public and parochial schools in America. The ecclesiastical champions of the latter have stated that the insistent demand of the Catholic hierarchy for a division of the public school money would eventually be granted; that the American people would grow weary of the school contention and to escape it would adopt the Catholic view; that then every effort would be made to secure the largest possible grants of public money; that the other sects would, out of envy, demand similar grants for their various schools, and that they would be encouraged by the Catholic dignitaries to press their claim; that the consequence would be the disruption of the public school system by the competition and antagonism of such sectarian bodies; and that the ultimate result would be *the supremacy of the Catholic Church in secular teaching* by virtue of her strong organization and great resources through her various teaching orders.

This discloses the twofold tactics of the Hierarchy. First, to wreck and weaken the public school system as much as possible, and then to take over complete control.

Wall Cracked at North College Hill

The charge that the Roman Catholic Hierarchy is bent on destroying these democratic institutions is not ill-founded. Here in America today there is an abundance of evidence to prove it. Take, for example, North College Hill, a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio. One would classify it as a typical American small town, with its attractive homes and 5,000 inhabitants. But today internally it is filled with strife and hatred because of a crisis in its educational system.

The trouble all started back in 1940, when, by adroit politics, the Catholic

minority of the community gained a majority number of seats on the school board. Thereupon, St. Margaret-Mary parochial school was incorporated in the educational system, and Archbishop McNicholas slapped a rental fee of \$6,000 dollars a year on the small community in addition to regular teachers' pay for the eight nuns, which money was turned over to the church, since nuns are sworn to poverty. Yet the basement of the parochial school continued to be used by the parish for its highly-profitable gambling racket of bingo. Having an insatiable greed for money, the avaricious Hierarchy then boosted the rental and salary demands upon the residents of North College Hill. This overloading of the wagon resulted in the Catholics' losing the election in 1942, and the newly elected school board's throwing off the excessive weight from the taxpayers' backs by terminating the arrangement with the parochial school.

Renewing the battle in 1945, Catholic Action, by the use of subterfuge, again won the majority membership on the school board by a margin of 35 votes, and again the parochial school burden was hung upon the necks of the taxpayers. It soon became evident that the Hierarchy was determined this time to place the entire system under its domination. Their plan of attack was this: Under the law, the appointment of teachers was in the hands of the superintendent of schools. If the school board could have this authority turned over to itself, then they could flood the schools with Catholic teachers and thus put the entire system in the hands of the Hierarchy. However, Dr. William A. Cook, superintendent, being a man of principle and a lover of democratic liberty and freedom, refused to hand over to the Papacy the American school system, and so he refused to turn over his confidential files of teacher applications and correspondence. This resulted in his being charged with "insubordination", and

at the February, 1947, meeting of the board it was voted that his contract should not be renewed when it expired in July. Thereupon, 1,200 taxpayers and many others signed a petition asking for a renewal of the contract, but all in vain. The superintendent was ousted and out of the 33 teachers, 29 resigned. This forced the parents of hundreds of pupils to organize schools in Protestant churches. Some parents transferred their children to neighboring districts. The National Education Association, after investigating the situation, called it "probably the most serious school situation now current in the nation". The Ohio Education Association offered "to find employment elsewhere for all teachers of this city who wish to leave in protest against present conditions".

On June 17 at a meeting of the school board attended by more than 1,000 citizens the Catholic majority on the board failed in their effort to replace Dr. Cook with a superintendent of their own choice. Thereupon the whole school board resigned, automatically throwing the school system on the shoulders of the Probate Court. So now North College Hill is without school teachers, without a superintendent and without a school board.

Is the Roman Catholic Hierarchy perturbed over this overthrow of American democratic institutions? Not in the least! This is exactly what they were aiming at: a destruction of the public school system, in order that it might be replaced by one which will grovel under the scepter of Rome. At least, in North College Hill the wall of democracy was cracked; a bridgehead had been established, and so the Catholic Hierarchy proceeded immediately to consolidate its forces by bringing in Catholic families to replace the Protestant majority that had been whittled down. This "colonizing" has increased the Catholic school population by ten percent.

AUGUST 8, 1947

Spellman Call

Freedom-loving Americans, here is a shining example of what is in store for every American community, large or small, that resists the solicitations of the Vatican octopus. Here is the reason that Cardinal Spellman, in behalf of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy in America, asks that 400,000 displaced persons of Europe be admitted to the United States, seventy percent of which are Catholics. The importation of such will greatly aid the Hierarchy to "colonize" more American towns, like North College Hill.

After studying over this coup d'état at North College Hill, Harold E. Fey, of the *Christian Century*, said: "I am convinced that the Most Reverend John T. McNicholas, Roman Catholic archbishop of Cincinnati, is using this town as a guinea-pig community to determine how deeply he can dip into public funds and how far he can go by using these and other funds to capture control of a community in which members of his church are still in a minority." It is an ugly state of affairs when the agents of a foreign power dressed in black clerical garb and giving sweet-sounding but hypocritical lip service and praise to democracy are caught red-handed in the very act of overturning the American public school system. Adding insult to injury, they then charge loyal Americans who rise up in defense of Constitutional principles as "spear-heading an attack" against "the patriotism of American Catholics". So railed Francis Spellman, the "honorable" prince of the international combine that promotes church-state control, when he habbled at the graduation exercises at the Jesuit college of Fordham against the *Christian Century*. In denying these malicious Spellman charges, the *Christian Century* said that there was no attack upon the Catholic Church but, rather, "a spirited defense against the uncertain aggressive policies by which Roman Catholics are trying to get for their church

special advantages from the government." The *Christian Century* then reduced the thesis of Spellman's speech to this: "To refuse to give the church anything it wants is to wage a crusade against it and stir up bitterness between Catholics and non-Catholics." Hence, the magazine said that "the cardinal looks for trouble", and "if Cardinal Spellman really wants an anti-Catholic fight, he can have one".

High Time to Awake!

It is along these battle lines that the fight for continued democratic institutions and principles is being fought. On the one hand is a great host of disorganized, freedom-loving people who love education and enlightenment but who are poorly equipped and trained to fight against their adversaries. On the other hand there is a minority, which is well organized and equipped with "secret weapons" that they use in a most cruel and heartless manner to break down and destroy without pity the wall of protection that has guarded America, for so many years, against the inroads of Papal rule administered by church-and-state union.

Honest Catholics, do you want to live in a country of ignorance and superstition like Spain or Portugal? Sincere

Protestants, do you want to live under conditions similar to those that existed during the Dark Ages of Papal rule? Devout Jews, do you want to live in a land like that ruled by Catholic Hitler, who was in a secret concordat with the Vatican? From one and all the answer is, No! Therefore, let all honest people awaken from their lethargy and let them realize that unless the wall that divides democracy from church-state control is strengthened, the Vatican Hierarchy will shortly replace the American public school system with one similar to that which exists in South American countries, in Spain and in Portugal, where the rate of illiteracy and immorality is appalling. Nor should one lose sight of the possibility that the Roman Catholic Hierarchy may again establish the "golden age" that existed in the fifteenth century, when none could read or write except the priests and the favored few of the nobility, while the bulk of the people were kept in gross ignorance and exploited for the gain of the church. The Vatican longs for the return of such an era; in fact, it extols its advantages. So, America, awake and take alarm! Know that every dollar spent to strengthen parochial schools will to that extent weaken democracy's defense against the age-old authoritarian rule of Rome.



Dangerous Un-American Activities



In a straightforward and forceful letter to Congressman J. Parrell Thomas, chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, former U. S. District Court Judge Albert Levitt, of Santa Monica, California, said:

"I respectfully request that your Committee investigate the un-American activities of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. I am willing to appear before your Committee and present, under oath, so as to be subject to the pains and penalties of perjury, conclusive documentary proof that the Roman Catholic Church in the United States is engaged in subversive activities which are undermining our American form of government and are designed to destroy the political and religious freedom of our people."

Mr. Levitt holds degrees from Harvard, Yale and Columbia. In view of his educational background and public achievements, these words come with tenfold force, yet they only state what large numbers of Americans have recognized to be a fact for a long time. Will the Committee call for Mr. Levitt's testimony? And if not, why not?

Fashion Enslaves the Male

"CLOTHES make the man" is an adage often quoted in this fashionable twentieth century. If the subject of fashion comes up for discussion invariably it turns to feminine apparel, and quite often

ends in a heated debate on the virtues or shortcomings of the things ladies wear, or fail to wear, as the case may be. But when it comes to being bound by the tradition, customs and fashions of former generations the male is by all standards of measurement the one to be pitied. His lot is a most miserable one, for his plight is one of slavery, slavery to fashion, a form of slavery that has a very ancient origin.

Every age and period of governmental history has had its distinguishing masculine dress, which has in many cases been more elaborate and strange than the female costumes. Among the savage races that paint, cut and tattoo the skin, and adorn it with bits of wood, bone,

stone, beads and teeth of animals, even piercing the lips, nose and ears—all the work of fashion makers—it is usually the male that is the worst victim. In the beginning the skins of animals were man's principal clothing; then came the discovery of weaving and an enlargement of his wardrobe. But the greatest influence upon the various fashions has been reli-

gion, politics, commerce and social belief. Savage dress differs from our own; Oriental costume differs from Western styles; so also do their religious, political and social beliefs. Without detailing the host of variations in all of these different styles, it must be admitted that the males have been most scrupulous to stay within certain limited bounds set up by the customs and fashions of the time.

Look closer at the pageant of fashion on parade down through the ages. Egypt, the first world power, originated the loin cloth, which was later enlarged to a skirt. In the sixth century B.C. under Cyrus of the Medo-Persian empire the long-robed or sleeved tunic was made popular because it covered the defects of their bodies and, therefore, was thought to add majesty to their figures. Instead of these clothes' 'making the man' they 'hid the man', or lack of man. The Grecian costume was noted for its *chiton*, a tunic, and *himation*, which measured about thirteen feet long and six feet wide and was draped over the shoulders in shawl fashion. This dress was described as "refined simplicity", and, though it was a most practical and comfortable one, yet the well-dressed Greek was careful to see to it that his *chiton* and *himation* were cut according to fashion's fixed pattern.



The Roman wardrobe article known as the toga was worn over the tunic or stola. It was a simple form, yet its color was of great importance, denoting a man's rank or profession. Blue was for the philosopher, green for the doctor, white for the soothsayer, black for the theologian. Peasants wore solid colors and the aristocrats wore multicolored togas. So it was quite important that the male wear a toga specifically colored for him according to custom.

Slavery at Its Worst

During that long, dismal period of history known as the Dark Ages the male sank to the lowest depth of captivity in the mire of fashion. Men became serfs, obedient to every whim and nightmare of fashion that the despots of those times imagined. The Crusades also cast their curse upon man's freedom. It was an age of adventure and lust, sometimes called "romance", when knight gallants were literally encased in coats of mail and armor plating, like canned meat. The well-dressed man kept his suit well polished and the joints well oiled.

In the latter part of the sixteenth century French nobility reached its zenith in luxury and stupidity of dress. A good description of that male slavery is given in the book *Historic Costume*:

The men and women vied with each other in the elegance of their dress to such an extent that the gentlemen became as effeminate as possible in their attire, and their whims and absurdities were unbounded. They imitated the ladies in wearing not only necklaces, rings, and earrings, but also ruffs and rolls or artificial hair. They adopted the corset to give them slim waists, and the busked doublet (the doublet with boned front coming down to a point), which gradually evolved into the padded front, forming a pouch-like protuberance which imparted a grotesque appearance to the wearer. This fashion, however, did not last, possibly because it was clumsy, or still more likely, because it created a great deal

or ridicule. . . . Fans were carried by these "curled darlings" of society, and as a vanity of vanities they wore at night masks and gloves saturated with oils and pomades. . . . Worse than all this, however, was the king's [Henry III] love for paint, powder, and perfume. Perfumes were the rage. Everything was bathed in amber, musk, ambergris, and other scents. With all this foppishness in gentlemen's attire, certainly feminine extravagances may be condoned.

D'Aubigné, the noted French historian, horrified at Henry's eccentricities, wrote: "Each comer was at a loss to know whether he beheld a king-woman, or a man-queen."

Like Frenchmen, Englishmen were also infected with the powdered-wig, ribbon and perfume disease. Exclaimed one person at the time: "It was a fine silken thing I espied th' other day walking down through Westminster Hall, that had so much ribbon about him as would have plundered six shops and set up twenty country peddlers."

Wigs, Collars and Muffs

Wigs, first made by the Egyptians 5,000 years before, reached their greatest extravagance during this period, extending even down to the waist and, of course, were worn by the stylish males. Some denounced these wigs as "bushes of vanity". Anathemas against them, however, were futile to deliver the males from their enslavement until fashion declared that they were no more stylish.

Prior to collars as we know them today men wore great gatherings of starched ruffles around their necks. Henry II of France wore a ruff a half yard in depth. It was heavily starched with what Phillip Stubbes called "divell's liquid". Quoth he: "The one arch or pillar whereby his [the devil's] kingdom is underpropped, is a certaine kind of liquid matter, which they call *starch*, wherein the divell hath willed them to washe and dive their ruffs well, whiche, beeyng drie, will stande stiff and in-

flexible about their necks." The modern-type collar is said to have been invented in England, in 1789, for the purpose of hiding boils and pimples. Neckties or cravats are a comparatively modern invention compared with earrings, necklaces and fans. Originally made of a soft material, they served a useful purpose, and were wrapped about the neck like a scarf for protection. But today these tie-me-ons are only ornamental accessories.

Another example of abject slavery to fashion in the past was the non-elastic "tights" which one outspoken fellow described as follows: "It would be unjust to the tailor to say they fitted like my skin, for they sat a great deal closer. When I took them off my legs were like fluted pillars grooved with the cords of the pantaloons." More than all these things, it puts a great strain on our imagination to think that the male was so enslaved to fashion in those days that if one were a prominent churchman, judge or doctor it was necessary for him to have his *muff* regardless of the weather, in order to lend an air of dignity befitting his position in society.

Finally, with the coming of the French Revolution, white powdered wigs and knee breeches came to an end, and long-tail coats and long trousers with beaver hats became the style on the Continent. Yet in spite of such revolutions the poor male was still shackled to the apron strings of Dame Fashion and was compelled to humbly accept her new dictates as to what was stylish!

While some of the early settlers that came to America were interested in gaining freedom from religious persecution, none seemed particularly interested in extricating themselves from this ancient form of slavery. The Pilgrims, Puritans, Dutch, French and others each brought with them their habits and traditions of dress. They had their collars and cravats, garters and buckles, pantaloons and peculiar hats, beneath which some wore wigs.

Twentieth-Century Bondage

Today men no longer wear toothpick shoes, ruffs, muffs, lace, ribbons and embroidery. But is this because they have rebelled against and escaped from fashion's snare? Not at all. The whims of fashion have changed, but the devotion of the male to fashion's new dictates is as ardent as ever. He must dress according to fixed rules of society if he is to be "respectable". It might be a sweltering-hot day, yet this twentieth-century male meekly puts on his collar, tie, coat and hat and literally boils inside, with or without feeble words of protest.

The basic factors that control fashion and style have not changed, no, not in the last five thousand years. Religion, politics and commerce are still the masters of fashion. Religion binds great turbans on millions of men's heads. It clothes its clergy in unsightly petticoat-garb as old in design and as unscriptural as their moldy creedal dogmas. Politics still holds sway and rules through its city, state and government institutions. Their officers and servants are identified by their dress: soldiers, sailors, policemen, firemen and even the street sweepers, all have their uniforms cut out for them. Not the least influential of this unholy "trinity" that controls fashion is commerce. Commerce feeds on the profits made from the sale of "fashionable" suits, hats, collars, ties, etc., etc. Commerce subsidizes the fashion-makers and designers and advertising sells the new styles to the male victims.

Without doubt, men are as much in slavery to fashion as the women. Manifestly, those who will reform fashion must reform this old world of religion, politics and commerce. But, since such is beyond reform, men who long for freedom from fashion's bondage must wait until the righteous New World, free from all enslavement. Then no more will be heard the foolish adage, "Clothes make the man."

Yosemite

Masterpiece
of Divine Sculpturing



MORE than breath-taking is the scene that has loomed up ahead. The enormity and grandeur of God's work of sculpture before you crushes out words. Suddenly feeling about as big as a small ant, robbed of breath and speech, your mind staggered by what your disbelieving eyes see, you just stand and stare. For the past hour you had been driving over rolling foothills dotted with live oaks, which had gradually given way to scented pines as you climbed higher and higher into the Sierra Nevada mountains of California. Then, as the road leveled off somewhat as it wound along the bank of the tumbling Merced river, came that break in the forest. The curtain of green drew back to reveal out ahead there in the open your journey's end, Yosemite valley. In awed silence you stopped the car and got out. And now you just stand and stare, with the Merced river curving by at your feet and with granite cliffs filling the sky above your head.

Recovering slightly from the first shock of astonishment, you move slowly into the forested meadowland valley that stretches ahead for seven miles, varying in width from a half mile to a mile. But it is not this beautiful valley through which the sparkling Merced glides that captures your gaze: it is the precipitous granite walls that engulf the valley as they tower skyward three thousand or

four thousand feet.

Why, the city dweller might compute with surprise that it would take three Empire State buildings (man's tallest skyscraper, 102 stories) one on top of the other to be able to peep over the valley rim to glimpse the glorious mountain panoramas fanning out round about. Monopolizing attention, the huge bulk of El Capitan juts out into the valley foreground and, with feet planted on the valley floor, raises its great granite face upward till its brow is cooled by the breezes 3,604 feet above. Sublime in its imposing grandeur, unperturbed by the storms and blizzards that rage and shriek, it seems above earthly things in its air of grand majesty and permanence.

But in such a valley of wonders El Capitan cannot forever hold attention undivided. Opposite El Capitan and on the south side of the valley Cathedral Rocks spire their way 2,592 feet higher than the 4,000-foot-high valley floor, and out of the cradle of the cliff graceful Bridalveil fall curves over the edge for a 620-foot drop through the air. As it falls it swings and sways and sings in the wind, and spray flying free of the fall fashions its own rainbows of misty beauty and clothes the column of water in a gauzy veil. Thereby it seems to half fall and half float, seems gentle and fine and feminine; but the rumbling bass in

its music betrays a power beneath its soft clothing. Though many visitors are unaware of it, this is the second fall they have passed in entering the valley. The first is Ribbon fall, on the opposite side in a recess in the cliff wall. Its 1,612-foot plunge is ten times as high as that of Niagara.

But no retracing of steps now; on into the valley new wonders draw us. Beyond Cathedral Rocks and reaching over 3,000 feet above our heads is Sentinel Rock; and if it is the season for melting snows water cascades over its face in reckless flight. Next busy eyes swing once more toward the north wall of cliffs to widen as they focus on Three Brothers, an immense mountain mass with three gables fronting the valley, one above the other, with the topmost stretching upward 4,200 feet.

By this time you have penetrated the valley to a point where the mighty roar pounding into your ears can no longer be ignored, and you turn to look a little beyond Three Brothers and at the source of the sound. With head thrown back you gaze in silent admiration at famous Yosemite Falls as it seems to shoot right out of the sky. Its first bound over the lip of the precipice frees it of earthly bonds for several seconds as it plummets 1,430 feet in one sheer fall, the highest free-leaping waterfall in the world. But it finds no rest as it crashes into the rock-bound pool at the bottom and boiling clouds of spray billow up on the wings of the agitated wind currents. Like a bucking horse the foaming waters pitch and plunge as they tumble thunderously through a small gorge to reach the brink of the lower fall, where they unhesitatingly fling themselves over for a fall of another 320 feet to the valley floor and the Merced river. So appalling is Yosemite Falls in its total drop of 2,524 feet that in May the earth trembles for half a mile around and its booming voice can be heard five or six miles away under favorable circumstances.

But even this wonder-fall cannot corner all attention, for now we are well into the valley and before and around us crowd into view cliffs awesome and grand. On the north are the Royal Arches, over whose sculptured face a sheet of water picturesquely falls when the snows are melting; and adjoining the Arches is the towering stone called Washington Column, which in comparison shrivels the man-made 555-foot-high Washington Monument in the nation's capital to the size of a telephone pole. Capping the Arches and the Column is the huge hemisphere of granite known as North Dome. To the south Glacier Point rears its austere face 3,254 feet above the valley, and it is over this precipice that the famous firefall tumbles in summertime. Each evening a large bonfire blazes atop Glacier Point, and when it has burned down to a bed of coals it is poured over the cliff wall. How its fiery glow lights up cliff and sky as it trails its red stream down into the valley thousands of feet below!

Now looking to neither right nor left, but straight ahead, looms up the most remarkable rock formation of Yosemite—Half Dome. It is like the other many granite domes so characteristic of the glaciated terrain, only larger, and half of it has been cleanly sliced off and carried away by glacier action, leaving the remaining half standing with its sheer,



cut face looking over the valley. In serene majesty it rises from flowery groves and meadows to pierce the blue for 4,892 feet. Its height above sea level is 8,852 feet. Sole competitor of spectacular Half Dome is stupendous, unbelievable El Capitan. The latter commands the entry of the valley; the former dominates the head.

As one marvels at the sublime grandeur of this magnificent valley the appreciative mind cannot help but meditate concerning its Creator, Jehovah God. He it was that brought into play the erosive and shearing power of water and ice, and it was these natural visible forces that gouged this mighty gorge in the earth. First the preglacial Merced river cut its channel ever deeper until it had fashioned a V-shaped canyon some 2,000 feet deep, then followed the glaciers that inexorably pushed their way through, widening and deepening the canyon to its present U-shape. Then as the gouging stream of ice receded and melted it left behind a large lake sunk down below its 3,000-foot-high shoreline. But the Merced still flowed through, and in passing it deposited sand, eventually filling in the lake and forming the present level valley floor of Yosemite.

Yosemite. When that word is uttered the mind visualizes the world-renowned valley; but the term may embrace much more. The valley itself was discovered and made known to the world by a battalion of whites in pursuit of hostile Indians, in 1851. In 1864 the valley and the Mariposa grove of Sequoia big trees were set aside by Congress to be administered as a public trust by the state of California. It was in 1890 that the far-flung bounds of Yosemite National Park were established, to embrace 1,182 square miles of spectacular mountain country in the heart of the rugged Sierra Nevada range. In 1906 California receded the area to the federal government, in which status it has since remained. Hence it is that Yosemite may mean much more

than the small valley area. No review of Yosemite National Park can rightly limit itself to the cliff-walled valley in whose forested and grassy bosom is cradled the Merced river.

The Merced river. What wild and adventuresome tales its waters could tell if they could talk! From the 13,000-foot-high peaks of the backbone of the Sierras the waters come, rivulets becoming creeks and rivers, winding and slipping their way through high alpine meadows dotted with delicately colored wild flowers, foaming and beating their way through boulder-strewn canyons, eddying and swirling into quieter pools only to soon thereafter be tossing and tumbling through rocky rapids or plunging over dizzying waterfalls. Frolicsome, cavorting, restless water that finds little time to linger and loiter as it hurries from its highland sources to meander with the Merced through restful Yosemite valley. But the Merced's waters can't talk; so we must see for ourselves.

At the head of Yosemite valley near Half Dome the gorge divides into three canyons. To the south runs Illilouette canyon. Probing into it we soon come to beautiful 370-foot-high Illilouette fall, while beyond lies a broad open basin studded with forests and lakes and moraines and which finally ends in the Merced Group of rugged mountain peaks whose snow and ice feed Illilouette's stream.

Tenaya canyon splits off to the north, threading its way between the towering North Dome and Half Dome. Soon Mirror lake appears, fringed by green willows against a backdrop of darker pine forests. If your visit is at sunrise before the breezes of the day are stirring, the glassy surface mirrors to your gaze not only the belt of willows and pines, but also the huge granite bulk of Mount Watkins and the rocky slopes that climb toward Clouds Rest peak, topped by the blue vault of heaven itself. As the reflection has foretold, beyond Mirror lake

the canyon slips between Mount Watkins and the wave of granite that rises toward Clouds Rest. Cascades tumble over glacier-polished waterways of rock, and farther on a series of lily gardens and meadows grace filled-in lake basins. Everywhere the smooth-wiped appearance of rock formations testify to the glacial action. Ten miles up this north fork the canyon comes to an end in Tenaya lake and the massive 2,500-foot-high building-shaped rock perched above it, called Sierra Cathedral.

The middle canyon of the three-way split is the main one and is the channel for the Merced river. Now far up is Vernal fall, very symmetrical and exact as with easy grace its waters bend over the brow of the precipice and straighten out for a 317-foot dive in perfect form. A little beyond it and a lot above it the more wildly exuberant Nevada fall throws its whitened water over the cliff's edge for a 594-foot drop, but about halfway down it smacks loudly into the sloping cliff face and ends up in a wild slide. Penetrating the canyon on past Liberty Cap's blunt bulk and Half Dome's rounded back side, the sturdy hiker saunters into Little Yosemite valley, an imitation of the yawning Yosemite gorge downstream. It is three miles long and flanked by walls 1,500 to 2,000 feet high, over which milky cascades come bounding down into the valley bottom. And again farther on, as if unable to forget and in lingering memory of the great Yosemite below, still three other little Yosemites are found in tracing the Merced to its birthplace, the last one being 7,800 feet

above sea level and nestled near the base of 13,095-foot-high Mount Lyell. Reminiscent of millenniums long past, on this peak's chilly heights the remnants of a glacier remain.

Two other large basin areas are drained by streams entering the Merced river: one in back of Bridalveil fall and the other stretching out and up from the brink of Yosemite falls. Yosemite creek basin is particularly picturesque. It is dotted with granite domes and hogbacks, some showing just their heads above the surrounding forests, others poking their imposing bulks high above, some singly, others in clusters. On them shines the polish of the glacier that brought them

into relief. In the upper portion of the basin moraine beds are covered with fine forests. Lakes, meadows, bogs, countless alpine flower gardens, all are sprinkled over the basin as it reaches back to the



glistening snow-clad heights of Mount Hoffman. From these frozen environs rills hustle to join the Merced river far below. Sliding over smooth rocks like sheets of glass, oozing through the bogs, jumping small falls and dancing down slanting cascades amidst merry babbling, joining other rivulets to make streams that gracefully curve their way through flowery meadows, the waters follow a carefree course of changing moods as adventurous dashes of reckless flight are interspersed with rest in calm pools or glacier lakes. But on the waters flow unsuspectingly toward their greatest adventure, Yosemite falls. Two miles away the stream in springtime is forty feet wide and four feet deep. The last mile

before its high dive lies between granite domes and folds that billow up like thunderheads, and through this last mile the stream swings its way, to finally pause and compose itself in a restful pool. Then, with an air of finality, it calmly slips over the lip of the pool, takes a little run down an incline, and leaps out over the precipice to become the world's highest free-flying waterfall. And with a crashing roar far below it proclaims its supremacy.

Yosemite National Park's captivating charm comes from cliffs and water combined. The severe simplicity of the sheer valley walls is relieved and enlivened by the roaring waterfalls that hurtle over their rims. It is water that makes the forest symphony to lighten the stillness of the gaping gorge. It is water in the five high basins surrounding the valley that keeps their streams flowing and their 111 lakes sparkling blue in the sun. It is water in the rugged Tuolumne canyon in the northern part of the park that makes it a scenic wonder, and transforms its beautiful Hetch Hetchy valley into a small Yosemite. All of which is strong reason for visitors to see Yosemite National Park in spring or early summer to see it at its best.

Little need be said about the animal and plant life; not that they are not delightfully varied, but because they are not unusual in comparison with other mountain areas. Cougar, bear, deer—in fact, some 60 species of mammals—make the park their habitat. More than 200 varieties of birds, about 25 kinds of reptiles and a dozen kinds of amphibians are to be found there, and several varieties of trout swim in the streams and lakes. Because of the wide range in altitude, from 2,000 feet to over 13,000 feet, more than 1,300 varieties of flowering

plants add their dashes of color to the park. As for trees, live oaks in lower altitudes soon give way to forests of pine, spruce, fir, cedar and mountain hemlock. Forming the last tree outpost in the heights is the dwarf or white-bark pine, which at 11,000 or 12,000 feet is little more than a crumpled mass of branches a few feet high with roots tenaciously clinging to precarious footholds in rocky crevices. Along the streams deciduous trees often grow, and in the fall of the year they brighten the landscape with their splashes of color.

One Yosemite tree is unusual, the giant Sequoia. Three groves are in the park, the largest being Mariposa grove at the southern boundary. It is here that the famous Wawona tree grows, which has the hole cut in its trunk through which cars drive. Some of these forest giants have lived 4,000 years, and measure over 30 feet in diameter and nearly 300 feet in height. Why, plant one of them in the average city street and it would reach from curb to curb and its dome-shaped crown would shade the roofs of 20- or 25-story buildings! In the realm of trees they rank as mighty as do Yosemite's cliffs and waterfalls in their realm.

Many visitors marvel at the wonders of Yosemite, and they worship nature as a god. Such persons are lacking in appreciation and gratitude toward the Creator of the forces that sculptured this masterpiece out of the mountains. They will return to the dust and become as inanimate as the cliffs and waterfalls that awed them. Wise visitors will see in the divine sculpturing of Yosemite's valley a reflection of the power and eternal majesty of Jehovah God, and they will live forever to enjoy earth's beauties.



For ever since the creation of the universe God's invisible attributes—his everlasting power and divinity—are to be seen and studied in his works, so that men have no excuse.

—Romans 1:20, Twentieth Century New Testament.

Only God Can Make a Brain

"COME now,
and let us
reason together."
Thus the Creator
addresses himself
to His reasoning
creature, made in
His own image
and likeness. (Isa-
iah 1:19) Such an

invitation extended by the Creator to His creature argues the ability of that creature to utilize the same data for reasoning adopted by the One who said: "Let us reason together." The invitation to reason further points to the possession by the creature of that organic structure we call the brain, with which to reason.

With all his vaunted knowledge, man has not as yet been able to fathom the depths and intricacies of the brain's functions. One thing is certain: when the Creator brought forth His human creature it was with the promise that willing obedience to the Creator would bring to the creature the priceless possession of endless life. Endless life would require an organism capable of withstanding the ravages of time and with ability to function perfectly without end. That would require a brain so constructed as to be able to receive, to retain, to call into use when wanted, the accumulative information of a never-ending existence; the unlimited amount of knowledge eternal life ahead would bring.

Does man possess such a brain? He does! The physical structure of the brain is not so difficult to grasp, because it can be seen. But the marvels of its functions,

which are not seen, are beyond man's present ability to fully understand.

The three general divisions of the brain are termed the cerebrum, the cerebellum and the brain stem. The brain stem is a

prolongation of the spinal cord after it passes through a round opening in the floor or base of the bony structure of the skull, or cranium.

Generally speaking, the brain itself, including the cerebrum and the cerebellum, is formed into two hemispheres, divided from front to back by a longitudinal fissure. For convenience we can then speak of the left side or the right side of the brain. These hemispheres are formed of white matter covered over with gray matter. The white matter consists of medullated nerve fibers very intricately arranged. These tiny nerve fibers ramify throughout the nervous system acting as nerve connectors and are called "rami communicantes". Gathering into thicker threads, these nerve fibers are identified by name according to their location and specific function. The gray matter of the brain, which covers the white matter, is seen to consist partially of nerve cells with specialized dendrites and axons. These nerve cells with their dendrites and axons are called neurons. It is the neuron of the gray matter of the brain that plays such an important part in the accumulation of information, the storing away of facts and various

data, and which makes man an intelligent creature.

The divine economist, the Creator, in making provision for the eternal existence and brain function of His earthly creature, did so in a most unique way. The two hemispheres of the brain are not smooth and round, but are formed into lobes. The gray and white matter falls into lobe-like shapes by sulci or fissures grooving deep into the brain structure, and into these folds of the sulci the gray matter is tucked away. Wherein lies the economy, you ask? If the gray matter of the brain were untucked, as it were, that is, taken out of the sulci and spread out flat, if that were possible, it would cover an area as large as a good-sized dining table.

It is estimated there are between seven and ten billion neurons in the brain's gray matter. By some electronic process unknown to man, each tiny neuron in the gray matter of the brain is capable of receiving and retaining an almost unlimited amount of information. With the seven to ten billion neurons alive and functioning normally, as must have been the case when the Creator first made man in His own image and man enjoyed his primal purity, it is not difficult to realize that the Creator had there made a creature capable of receiving and using all the cumulative information of life eternal.

Thought, Reason, Devotion

Examining briefly some of the physiological functions of the brain, it is generally agreed that the cerebrum is the seat of the higher faculties: thought, reason, devotion. The higher the scale of intelligence, the greater the size of the cerebrum. Each hemisphere of the cerebrum is divided into four somewhat arbitrary sections; some authorities give five. The frontal lobe or area is sometimes called "the bureau of information" wherein are contained the intellectual faculties. Also in the frontal area are the

powers of cognition and volition. The power of cognition means the intelligent moral creature is able to discern between right and wrong, good and evil. The power of volition means the intelligent creature is able not only to recognize right from wrong but is also able to take his stand for or against the good or evil. He is a free moral agent able to exercise his own free will.

Scientific examination of a subject frequently tends to lead the inquirer away from the great First Cause behind the subject examined. For instance, examining further the functioning of the cerebrum, one might be intrigued with its wide variety of mental operations, and forget entirely that here the Creator has placed, under proper control, man's ability to enjoy every good and perfect material gift his benevolent Creator has provided. The enchanting delights of the first man's Edenic home must have been beyond our ken of comprehension. That garden park! those fruitful trees of life! everything a pure heart might desire was there; the man was then able to enjoy it to the full; perfect vision, untainted taste, balanced touch, sound hearing, and keenest sense of smell. Those qualities were possible through the balanced functioning of his cerebrum, for there the nerve centers terminate that govern sight, taste, sensation or touch, hearing and smelling.

In our imperfect state, so far from that original balanced function, we are ever painfully aware of our being subject to unbalanced function. For example, injury to one side of the occipital lobe where the optic nerves terminate does not, remarkably enough, blind one whole eye but blinds the opposite half of each eye. If the left side is damaged the patient is blind in the right side of each eye. He will likely see his fork but not his knife. It becomes difficult to comb the hair, the patient cannot put the parting in the right place. And yet there are those who have gone through life with-

out even being aware of this unbalance of cerebral function.

Very little is understood of the exact function of the cerebellum, or the back part of the brain. It is connected through the pons with the spinal cord and above with the cerebrum by three compact bundles of nerve fibers. It is thought by some authorities to regulate the co-ordination of our movements, such as walking and running; and to influence our sense of balance and posture. There is no evidence that the cerebellum initiates any action whatever, but rather it exerts a regulatory influence. Another interesting finding on the function of the cerebellum is that its entire activity is below the level of consciousness; in other words, its function gives rise to no sensations. Whatever impulses are conveyed to the cerebellum produce no conscious reaction sensed by the creature.

Important Brain Stem

The third division of the brain in our examination contains the mid-brain, the pons Varolii and the medulla oblongata, and is called the brain stem. The mid-brain lies at the top of the brain stem, closest to the cerebrum. It is formed chiefly of two stout columns which are joined posteriorly. Its functions are imperfectly understood, but it appears to be an integral part of the nervous mechanism controlling the execution of skilled muscular movements.

The pons Varolii, or as it is usually termed, the pons, forms an intercommunication link between the cerebrum, cerebellum and spinal cord. It is a prominent white mass lying just in front and below the cerebellum. The medulla oblongata is immediately superior to and continuous with the spinal cord. Very little is known, definitely, of the functions of either the pons or the medulla. But it can be said in a general way that by virtue of the presence of nerve-cells and definite tracts of nerve fibers, both the

pons and the medulla oblongata may be regarded as consisting of nerve centers of special function, and as conducting paths between the cerebrum, cerebellum and spinal cord.

The term "nerve center" here used is the simple designation of an intricate co-ordinating mechanism. The functions of breathing, swallowing, mastication, discharge of saliva, speaking, the heart's beat, the contraction and expansion of the veins and arteries, are all co-ordinated and regulated within the nerve centers, the co-ordinating mechanisms of the pons and medulla. Impulses traveling from the higher portions of the brain and controlled by the will, termed volitional efferent nerve impulses, are conducted by and co-ordinated within certain nerve centers of the pons and medulla. Likewise other nerve centers within these two parts of the brain stem serve to transmit afferent nerve impulses from the spinal cord to higher portions of the brain.

The Central Switchboard

The brain might well be likened to the central office of a telegraph system. As the telegraph office is connected to its telegraph system by innumerable single wires, so is the brain connected to every part of the living organism by an intricate system of nerves. These nerve cells, or neurons, form millions of complete circuits by making contact with each other, and this contact when formed is called synapse. The nerves are not joined in solid connection, but merely make contact. Each cell is separate and distinct, whether it be short, as in some motor cells which affect movement, or nearly three feet long, as in the vagus nerve cells, which may extend its hair-like axon, finer than any nylon thread, from the medulla into the intestine. Each cell has a body with a nucleus, and, in general, several rootlike tentacles. These tentacles are called dendrites if they con-

vey messages from the outside to the cell body; if they convey messages from the cell body to the outside they are called axons.

In general, each cell makes contact with several others, often resulting in an intricate chain of communication between different parts of the central nervous system. Nerves, like wires, are sometimes gathered into cables and trunk lines. There are 31 pairs of trunk lines passing down the spinal cord; and 12 pairs of cranial nerves traversing through various openings, called foramina, in the base of the skull to the outside or periphery. Bunches of nerves or nerve centers are called ganglia. Some nerves transmit messages, nerve impulses, from the periphery, that is, from the skin and muscles, to the center, the cord or brain; these are called afferent nerves. Other nerves transmit impulses from the brain or cord to the periphery, and are called efferent nerves.

The nerves located in the organs such as the ear, eye, tongue, nose, skin, which transmit their messages from those organs, are called receptors. Nerves are generally sensitive to four forms of stimulation; electrical, mechanical, thermal and chemical. Thus the retina of the eye is affected by a chemical change, the ear by a mechanical, while the skin is affected by all four.

Impulses and Reflexes

But how does the nerve impulse work? The simplest reaction is called a reflex. The leg is pricked, the part is jerked away; the eye is threatened, the lid is winked. What happens in these cases is that the receptor carries a message through its axon to the dendrite of a motor nerve which causes the muscle to act. In these simple reflexes the message may go through the brain, or it may go through the spinal cord only. The change in the nerve cell which causes the message to travel is bio-electric. It is thought

that the impulses from all cells, whether motor, sensory, auditory or thermal, are identical. The reason that one is understood as action, another as feeling, another hearing, is through the co-ordinating and interpreting in the higher brain. The rate of flow of the impulse is about 100 yards per second.

While the brain is master of all voluntary nerve responses, it is also keeper of many of the involuntary or autonomic nerve reactions. For example, through the amazing vagus nerve the brain regulates the dilation and contraction of arterial flow, while other branches of the same nerve control the secretions of the liver, pancreas, and stomach, and affect action of the small intestine, kidney and colon.

From the foregoing it is seen that even the most cursory examination of this marvel of God's creative handiwork, the human brain, reveals an infinite wisdom and an almighty power beyond anything finite man can even approximate or fully understand.

Yes, man has a brain adequate to his eternal needs! What answer can the honest heart make to the invitation of the Almighty Creator: "Come now, and let us reason together"? Only to echo the answer of the man after God's own heart: "I praise thee for the awful wonder of my birth; thy work is wonderful. For thou didst form my being, didst weave me in my mother's womb. . . . My body was no mystery to thee, as I was being moulded secretly and put together in the world below; all the days of my life were foreseen by thee, set down within thy book; ere ever they took shape; they were assigned me, ere ever one of them was mine. O God, what mysteries I find in thee! How vast the number of thy purposes! I try to count them!—they are more than the sand; I wake from my reverie, and I am still lost in thee."—Psalm 139: 14-18, *Moffatt*.

A W A K E !

Natural Giants of New Zealand

LOOK at the map of New Zealand and note the broken promontory that extends northwest from the land mass of North Island. Here, in this limited locality, is the natural reservoir of that useful and majestic tree the kauri. At one time great numbers of these giants of the antipodes flourished amidst a rank mossy undergrowth and tangle of palms, vines and ferns, ferns that grew to a height of forty feet. But now these mighty kauri trees are becoming rare, having dwindled both in size and in number, due to man's indiscriminate plundering.

In 1770 the famous navigator Captain James Cook gazed in admiration at the stately forest of perfect stems, some massive, some slender, but all pencil-straight and tall. In his journal he recorded that such specimens were "fit to make the finest masts in the world". From low-lying claylands to considerable heights up the rugged slopes these giant pillars shot up sixty, seventy and eighty feet with clean, round barrels before spreading out in a mighty rounded head.

Although a cone-bearer and frequently called a pine, the kauri belongs to another family, having thick, leathery, thumb-shaped leaves instead of needles, and is therefore a near relative of the

ornamental tree called "The Monkey Puzzle". Its scientific name *Agathis australis* is derived from the cones which grow right at the tip of the branches. These measure about two inches in diameter and are round, smooth and dark-green until ripe, when they fall to pieces, releasing fragile compressed winged seeds which scatter far and wide.

The young kauri grows up like a whip and takes on an elegant sugar-loaf outline during the intermediate stage of its growth, when it is known as a "ricker".

In later life all signs of the regular branch formation disappear and the characteristic bushy top develops. Mature specimens tower 150 feet high. One kauri of this height, at Mercury Bay, was recorded to measure 24 feet in diameter, about twice the width of the average bedroom, and the marvel is that this dimension was constant throughout the length of the bole; practically no diminution for eighty feet to the first branch!

How many long centuries did it take for this outstanding tree to reach eighty feet in girth? It is hard to compute the age of the kauri even when cut down, because the end grain is even and scarcely shows the annual rings. The age of the Mercury Bay Giant



has been variously estimated at from 1,700 to 4,000 years.

Of wonderful uniformity, the kauri makes an ideal miller's log; moreover, defective and faulty trees are a rarity. Unlike many monarchs of the forest, it has no ugly butt formation at ground level, and consequently there is a minimum of wastage in milling due to taper. The dressed timber comes off the planer a light straw color. It has a silky luster and rapidly takes a good polish. Selected, mottled and figured timbers are much in demand.

It is truly said that there is no more useful timber for many purposes. Strong and resilient for its weight, it was speedily recognized in the days of sailing as the timber par excellence for masts and yards. On Cook's advice the British navy quietly gained an advantage by using kauri. Indeed this timber figured in an armament race in Napoleonic wars, for by mounting this new, straight-grained, long-length kauri in masts and spars a greater stretch of vital canvas could be flown. It is said that the extra speed thus gained was the deciding factor at Trafalgar.

By contrast, this easily-worked and beautiful wood has myriad domestic uses. Early New Zealand settlers used it exclusively as being equally good for both house-building and furniture-making. It makes the ideal sink top and baker's trough. Its cheesy grain is easily chiseled and many a fine-carved tea tray decks the colonial homes. For the humble bucket or the huge industrial vat it is unexcelled, and a kauri boat is prized for soundness and durability. Because of freedom from taint it is exclusively used in the manufacture of New Zealand dairy equipment: butter factory churns, butter-working rollers, presses, etc.

Alas, indiscriminate felling and the ravage of fire have taken a great toll of this fine timber. Before greedy commerce hacked down the surviving rem-

nant, the government closed two forest stands and these are now jealously preserved, more as a tourist attraction than as a business project. The Waipoua State Forest in North Auckland displays some grand clumps of clean-skinned kauri, the largest being about fourteen feet in diameter.

Kauri Copal

But even before the coming of the white man, 100 years ago, yes, and before the Maori landed in the kauri country, vast forests flourished where today stretch poor-quality, barren, uninviting clay lands. Such moor-like country is called "gum land", because all that remains of the tall timbers is the resinous gum they copiously yielded.

Millions of pounds' worth of gum or "copal" has been won from the floors of these vanished forests. As the mighty tree crashed to the ground it tore up a mound of earth, from the size and shape of which an expert gumdigger could gauge just where the first branches had forked out, and probing the ground there with a spear would locate the knobs of gum which centuries before had formed in a crotch, yet not a vestige of timber remained.

The fossil gum ranges in color from crystal-clear amber to jet, and in size from that of a hen's egg to that of a man's head. At first only the larger lumps were sought, but today great areas of gum land are systematically dug over in trenches sometimes as much as twelve to fifteen feet deep, and in some places sluicing methods are followed in order to recover the pea-grain gum. Today gumdiggers, mainly Maoris and Dalmatians, are kept busy to meet the keen demand from varnish manufacturers.

The fossil kauri gum as it comes out of the ground is not soluble in the oils or solvents used in varnish-making, until it has been heated to about 330° C. (about 625° F.) for one to one and a half hours.

After such treatment the gum produces a varnish of the highest gloss and greatest depth. But because of the very high price of the resin to start with, and because of the expense of heat-treating it, it is used only where the finest quality is demanded. Synthetic resins are used as fair substitutes in making moderate-priced varnishes.

That the people of New Zealand are intensely interested in safeguarding this national tree was made very evident in a flood of articles and correspondence in the recent press. The residual argument

is whether scientific logging should be permitted or the native kauri bush left untouched. The kauri regenerates thickly, but by present hurry-up standards the maturing is considered too slow.

When the mad rush of the ruling powers of this world is stilled forever and the earth rejoices under the blessings of Theocratic Kingdom rule, many noble trees, like the kauri, will grow in grandeur, gladdening the hearts of God's earthly sons, and manifesting the glory of their Eternal Creator. *Awake!* correspondent of New Zealand.



Bird Food Everywhere

“Any one who takes the trouble to study the food and feeding habits of birds in a state of nature will find that, as a group, they are extraordinarily thorough, versatile, and ingenious in their methods of securing food. Whether their habits of life are due to tradition, to imitation, or to experiment, they exploit every available food-supply, they explore every environment, they employ every imaginable device for finding and capturing prey. To take as an illustration insectivorous species: in whatever habitat insects are found, there, too, are found birds which prey upon them—on the seashore and the desert's sandy face, in the smallest copse and the mightiest rain forest, in temperate meadowlands and subtropical savannas, on coastal plains and mountaintops. Or, if we consider the methods of obtaining food, once again we see endless versatility in the aggregate and adaptability in species and individuals. In the quest for insect food, titmice and goldcrests explore twigs and foliage; woodpeckers chisel into bark; nuthatches and tree-creepers explore its surface; sunbirds and humming-birds probe into blossoms; flycatchers and bee-eaters wally forth from a perch and capture prey in the air; nightjars, swallows, martins,

swifts, and hobbies hawk on the wing; flickers and wagtails and a host of others hunt on the ground; starlings and tick-birds hunt on the backs and bellies of other animals.

“Or again, if we consider another type of prey, it is the same story. For instance, the hosts of fish-eaters—darters, skimmers, herons, kingfishers, ospreys, pelicans, cormorants, gannets, kittiwakes, guillemots, skuas, and penguins: each has its special hunting-grounds—river, loch, estuary, inshore waters or open sea; each has its special hunting methods—flying or hovering over the water; perched above it, or standing in it; seizing with talons or spearing with the beak; plunging from on high, or somersaulting from the surface; fishing in companies, or in solitude; by sudden ambush, or by determined pursuit.”—*Adaptive Coloration in Animals*.

“However, this was not the first observation on how marvelously the birds are provided for. Nineteen hundred years ago the perfect man of God, the man Christ Jesus, showed His keen perception by declaring: “Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.”—Matthew 6: 26.

Have a Dish of ICE CREAM



TWENTY years ago the Department of Agriculture had enough time and money on its hands to figure out that the people of the United States consumed 1,392,192,000 quarts of ice cream every year. Nearly three gallons for every man, woman and child! If enough persons were lined up so as to serve this amount at one grand picnic, allowing each person a quarter of a pint, the line would stretch 168 times around the earth at the equator, or a distance of 4,218,763 miles *plus*.

Such an appetite for ice cream is cultivated from childhood over a period of many generations. Back in 1851 a Baltimore manufacturer was in the business on a commercial scale, but long before that Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson enjoyed this delicious dessert. George Washington is said to have bought an ice-cream freezer in 1784, and the journal of Senator Maclay tells about ice cream as being served at the White House on August 27, 1789. Ice cream, however, is not an American invention; its antiquity dates back to the early sixteenth century, when it was first made from eggs and milk in Italy. Before that the Arabians made their frozen sherbets.

Today the heart of a sizable proportion of earth's population is warmed by this icy taste-tickler. Since the first World War the Chinese have been introduced to this Western dessert, and they relish it. At the outposts of civilization, above the frozen arctic circle, in the torrid tropics, ice cream is known and loved. During the recent conflict the war department built huge refrigerator barg-

es which turned out five tons of ice cream a day for the soldiers.

If you are one of the few people in the world that do not particularly like the commercial brands made from powdered eggs, dried skim milk, gelatine, artificial flavorings, and no telling what else, all whipped up with an equal volume of air, then you will be interested in homemade ice cream.

Beat thoroughly 4 egg yolks, 4 cups of top milk and 2 cups of sugar or honey, and cook in a double boiler until a custard is formed that clings to or coats a spoon. Then cool, add 2 teaspoonfuls of vanilla. Fold into it 2 cups of heavy whipped cream. Pour into refrigerator freezing trays, or if you are old-fashioned, use a freezer with a crank. This will give a much better texture and smoothness, but don't forget to allow room for one-third expansion.

This is a basic recipe that is good for fresh fruit ice creams too. Simply add 1 cup of strained fruit pulp before freezing. Chocolate flavor is made by adding 1 square of melted chocolate or 3 tablespoonfuls of cocoa. And if that superb flavor, maple walnut, is desired, then scald $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups of top milk, pour over 3 whole eggs beaten with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of white sugar. Then add 1 cup of maple syrup and cook in double boiler until custard coats the spoon. Cool, add 1 cup of heavy cream that is beaten stiff, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of finely chopped walnuts, and freeze. In all cases remember that ice cream should not be served as soon as frozen. Allow at least an hour's time for the flavor to mingle with each molecule.

"THEY WORD IS TRUTH"

JOHN 17:17

The Divine Unction

THE apostle John was one of those present in the upper room in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost when the faithful disciples received the divine unction, that is, the anointing with the holy spirit of God through Jesus Christ. Toward the close of the first century, when he was an old man and was possibly the last of the apostles to survive, John wrote as follows: "Children! it is the last hour; and as you heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many have become antichrists; whence we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but it was that they might be made manifest that they are not all of us. And you have an anointing from the Holy One; you all know it [or, you all have knowledge, that is, to say, knowledge of the truth]. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is from the truth.

"Who is the liar, but he who denies that Jesus is the anointed One? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. . . . I have written these things to you concerning those who deceive you. But the anointing which you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that any one should teach you; but the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie; and as it taught you, abide in him [Christ Jesus]."—1 John 2:18-27, *The Emphatic Diaglott; Goodspeed; Rotherham.*

The apostle John was therefore writing to an anointed class. Of whom was this class made up? Merely of older brethren? No; not according to the apostle's form of addressing them as children, young men and also fathers: "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father [who has begotten you of his spirit]. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." (1 John 2:12-14) Writing to all alike, "little children," "fathers," and "young men", concerning the anointing or unction from the Holy One and as abiding in them, the apostle John indicates that at the time of one's begetting by the spirit of God to be a spiritual son of God such consecrated one is anointed with the spirit of God and is also baptized into the body of Christ. By the help of the spirit or active force of God, this anointed one must now increase in knowledge of the truth and in appreciation of his anointing. He must increase in his ability to carry out the things that the anointing commissions him to perform.

If one who has been anointed proves unfaithful and goes out from the congregation of God's anointed ones, he becomes an antichrist. His going out does

not prove he is right and that those whom he leaves behind are in the wrong and do not have the truth. The spirit of God which came with their anointing and which abides in them illuminates them still and assures them that they have the truth. On the other hand, the unfaithful anointed one is cast out of the "body of Christ" (or Theocratic organization) by Christ Jesus the Head thereof. The spirit of God does not abide in that unfaithful one and he does not abide in Christ, but goes into the darkness of error and untruth. The unfaithful one is therefore 'an antichrist. The faithful ones from whom he is cut off and disconnected are not antichrists, but abide in Christ. Jesus foretold that in the "last time", at the end of this world, where we are now, the "evil servant" class would be such an antichrist.—See Matthew 24: 48-51 and Luke 12: 45-48.

In olden time the shepherd David was anointed with oil by the Lord's prophet to be visible king over the typical Theocracy of the nation of Israel. Christ Jesus, when He was begotten of the spirit at the Jordan river, was anointed with God's spirit to be the King of the real Theocratic Government. But when on earth He did not actively enter in upon His rule and destroy the enemies and restore Paradise on earth, nor even when He ascended to heaven into God's presence did He at once do this.

What, then, was the purpose of Jesus' anointing while on earth? It was to commission Him to act as God's Spokesman and to preach the gospel of the coming Righteous Government. Isaiah's prophecy (61: 1, 2), which was then fulfilled primarily in Him, said for Him these words: "The spirit of the Lord Jehovah is upon me; because Jehovah hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the year of Jehovah's favor, and the day of

vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn." (*Am. Stan. Ver.*) The point of this was that the anointed Jesus must be a preacher of the good news, He must be a faithful and true witness of Jehovah God. The followers of Christ Jesus with their divine unction are made His joint-heirs of Kingdom glory. But, while they are in the flesh, their anointing with God's spirit lays upon them the obligation now to be Jehovah's witnesses.

When on earth Jesus was faithful in that to which He was anointed. Therefore the final book of the Bible speaks of Him as "Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. . . . the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God." (Revelation 1: 5 and 3: 14, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) All His faithful apostles, including Paul, were Christlike witnesses of Jehovah. Paul was very specific concerning his own performance of the anointing to preach, saying: "I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God [Jehovah], and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."—Acts 20: 20, 21.

All members of the "body of Christ" are, by force of their divine unction or anointing, obliged to be witnesses of Jehovah concerning the Righteous Government in which they will share with Jesus the King of kings, for the vindication of Jehovah's name. (1 Corinthians 9: 16) Such obligation applies to the remnant of the "body of Christ" who are yet on earth. For that reason the remnant of anointed ones in this twentieth century have joyfully taken up the Scriptural name "Jehovah's witnesses" and have zealously acted under that name. (Isaiah 43: 10, 12 and 44: 8) Hence these must now say to all men of good-will on earth, 'Come, and take of the water of life freely.'—Revelation 22: 17.

Fighting the Distress of Hayfever



Swollen and inflamed eyes and nose, uncontrolled tears and spontaneous sneezing, that is the miserable lot of millions of hayfever victims: Year after year, some of these unfortunate people suffer from early spring until October, with the worst tear and sneezing season occurring during the month of August. So many people suffer from hayfever (it is estimated that there are between seven and eleven million of such in the United States alone) that they have formed a "Hayfever Prevention Society, Inc."

Pollen from the flowers have long been known to be the cause of hayfever. But the curious thing is that the great majority of sufferers are city-dwellers, rather than the farmers that are subjected to the greatest dosages of pollen. A botanist who has devoted much of his lifetime to a study of the subject is Dr. Roger P. Wodehouse. In 1945, he published a book classifying the roguish plants whose pollen disturbs man's peace. Such study has also removed suspicion from many innocent plants. The first seasonal sneeze-causers are the blooming grasses and the narrow-leaved plantain. But the misery they cause is insignificant compared with that brought on by ragweed during August and September. Fully eighty-five percent of hayfever east of the Rockies is caused by the ragweed scoundrel.

Some people have thought that all pollen-bearing plants cause hayfever; but this is not true. The conifers, pines, spruces, firs, etc., as a group produce great quantities of pollen, but only the junipers and cypresses are troublemakers. Cattails and sedges also shed forth an abundance of pollen, but they do not cause hayfever like the knavish narrow-leaved plantain. About a half-dozen families of herbaceous plants, such as the chenopods, pigweeds, docks, plantains, certain grasses, and, of course, ragweeds,

together with about eight families of trees, including maples, ashes, birches and beeches, cause practically all the misery suffered by the millions of hayfever victims.

Older remedies given for relief of hayfever included the succinimide of mercury, arsenic, iodine, bromide, and other nerve-suppressing drugs. Serums have been tried with poor results. Continued research by pharmacologists and botanists have led to different conclusions as to the cause, with the result that different remedies have of late been advanced. There seems to be a relation between hayfever and other ailments, like asthma, migraine and hives, that are classified as allergies. The human body contains a chemical substance called "histamine", large quantities of which in cases of allergy are released, which in turn causes the irritation of membrane tissues of the nose, lungs and eyes. Based on this information, chemists have endeavored to find agencies that will neutralize or counteract the histamine.

In 1945 it was announced that one to six injections of ethylene disulphonate would relieve hayfever suffering for six to eighteen months. In April, 1946, "benadryl" was announced as a cure for hayfever. Chemically it is beta-dimethyl-aminoethyl-benzhydrol ether hydrochloride. Another anti-histamine chemical is pyribenzamine hydrochloride. Still another is called "anthallan". But all of these chemicals are still in the experimental stage, with hayfever sufferers used as guinea pigs. Anthallan, it is claimed, gives "complete recovery" to 37 percent, with seventy to ninety-nine percent recovery for another 41 percent of the patients. After giving pyribenzamine on a thousand individuals it was said to be "a useful palliative" for about 50 percent of cases. Excellent results

were said to have been obtained from benadryl after two years of testing, while ethylene disulphonate is supposed to relieve in 50 to 75 percent of cases. These remedies are not sold to the general public as yet, because of the dangers of nausea, weakness, somnolence, dizziness and headaches that new and unknown chemicals sometimes produce.

Another approach to the problem of relieving the distress of hayfever is to uproot and destroy these pollen-bearing plants that produce the allergy. This has been undertaken by some of the larger communities, such as Cincinnati, Boston, New Orleans and New York. New Orleans as long ago as 1915 began fighting ragweed. This year New York city is having an all-out drive on ragweed, using six street flushers with 3,500-gallon tanks which spray 2,4-D weed-killer along roadsides. Since pent-up city-dwellers are the main victims, someone

might suggest to them that they become farmers who live in the wide-open spaces, breathe fresh air, and are practically immune to hayfever.

Mechanical Tasters

SCIENTISTS have now developed two gadgets that tell when vegetables are at their peak of perfection. The horticultural department of the University of Maryland has a "succulometer" and "tenderometer" which record when peas and corn are ready to be picked. By telling how much pressure it takes to shear through a sample pea pod the tenderometer can show how green they are. The succulometer measures the amount of moisture in corn, an index of its ripeness. From this one would think that twentieth-century farmers are no longer able to tell when their fruits and vegetables are ripe.

Value of truth

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"The sum of thy word is truth"

and

"The truth of Jehovah endureth for ever"

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Big Three Conference

◆ Responding to an invitation to take part in a discussion of aid to Europe in harmony with the Marshall plan, Mr. Molotov of Russia asked that the meetings begin on June 27. Mr. Molotov accordingly arrived at Paris on the appointed day, with a staff of 80 aides. The opening session occurred on the afternoon of the 27th, but was shrouded in secrecy. Yet news leaking out from the Salon des Perroquets indicated that the beginnings of the conference were not propitious. On the second day it became apparent that Molotov harried any aid plan on a unified European basis. As this was the underlying condition of the Marshall plan, fully endorsed by President Truman, the Paris parley seemed doomed. The Soviet minister's stand was a decided blow to the French and British ministers, who were, however, reported to be fully determined to go ahead with arrangements on the basis of unification, with or without Russia. The end of June witnessed also the apparent end of the conference in complete deadlock. Mr. Bevin remarked that Molotov was in effect asking the U.S. to give Europe a blank check. The pope piped up to say that the ministers at Paris should make concrete decisions, giving his unconditional approval to the Marshall plan. The decision of Molotov was, in fact, so 'con-

crete' that nothing seemed likely to move or alter it.

U. N. Anniversary No. 2

◆ The United Nations organization, on June 26, marked its second anniversary; but not in the most joyous manner. There were many uncertainties surrounding its functioning; but various leaders of government took part in observing the occasion at Lake Success, N. Y. Said President Truman, "I renew the pledge of our utmost to insure the success of the United Nations." Secretary of State Marshall referred to the U. N. as 'the first hope' of all peoples. The occasion commemorated the signing of the United Nations Charter on June 26, 1945, though it was not formally established until October 24 of that year, at which time the required majority of the signatory nations had ratified the covenant.

U. N. Headquarters Status

◆ The charter-day anniversary of the United Nations (June 26) witnessed the signing of the agreement between the United Nations and the United States regarding the official status of the U. N. headquarters in New York city. The document was signed by Secretary of State Marshall on behalf of the U. S., and by Secretary General Trygve Lie on behalf of the U. N. Under the agreement United States law will apply within the U. N. dis-

trict in all cases except those for which it makes special provision. Exceptions specified included those which give the site inviolability and provide that the service of legal process, including seizure of private property, may take place therein only by consent of the secretary general. All permanent delegates to the U. N., together with bona fide members of their resident staffs, will receive complete diplomatic immunity while acting in official capacities. The U. N. also received the right to establish and operate its own broadcasting station, airport and postal service.

World Police Force

◆ At Lake Success, N. Y., it was disclosed on June 30 that the United States delegation to the U. N. Military Staff Committee had proposed an international police force with a striking power of 1,250 bombers, 2,250 fighters and fighter bombers and 800 reconnaissance planes. The delegation also wants to include six carriers, three battleships and ninety submarines. The number of airplanes indicated foregoing is three times the number recommended by Great Britain, France or China. The Soviet delegation did not submit any recommendation, considering it better to wait until the general principles for an international police force have first been decided upon.

Atom Scientists Warn World

◆ The Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists on June 29 stressed that "the imperative problem of international control of atomic energy" must be solved soon, stating that "the alternative is the death of our society". They said further that "once stock piles of atomic bombs have been accumulated by two national blocs of a divided world it will no longer be possible to maintain peace". The committee pointed back to its statement of November 17 last and said, "We have one year less to secure a workable solution to safeguard our civilization. Why have the

year-long discussions in the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission not succeeded? The representatives of great states, while striving to safeguard the peace, have fulfilled their traditional duty to place their own nations in the most advantageous position to win the next war. It is useless to proceed further along this path; one cannot prepare for war and expect peace."

U. N. Committee on Palestine

◆ Three condemned terrorists awaiting execution in Acre Prison, Palestine, caused the U. N. Special Committee on Palestine, on a tour of investigation, some concern. They had numerous private meetings on the subject, and finally, on June 22, produced a resolution expressing concern "as to the possible unfavorable repercussions" which the hanging of these terrorists might have. But the UNSCOP did not feel that it could intervene directly on behalf of these convicted youths. As it was, the Palestine government indicated its displeasure with the committee for having acted as it did. A few days later the government told the committee in a memorandum that summarizing 27 years of British rule in Palestine it could not report progress in the effort to bring about political reconciliation between Arabs and Jews. The members of the UNSCOP inspected some of the most prosperous Jewish settlements in the country, and were duly impressed. The Arabs continued to boycott the committee, not attending any receptions held for them, and generally refusing co-operation. The committee expressed its strong disapproval of the terrorist activities resulting in four British soldiers killed and eight wounded before June came to a close.

UNRRA Ends, IRO Begins

◆ The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration officially ended at midnight June 30 drawing to a conclusion the greatest relief program of

history. Emergency aid had been supplied to 17 needy countries in Europe and Asia at a cost that would amount to \$8,700,000,000 before the books were closed. Of this amount the United States contributed about three-fourths. While UNRRA has served to prevent collapse of the war-stricken lands, more help is needed. The International Refugee Organization has been set up to take care of part of UNRRA's work, and the House of Representatives, by a vote of 124 to 43, on June 29 authorized the United States to participate in the IRO, and to bear approximately two-thirds of the expense.

Labor Bill Becomes Law

◆ After submitting for long hours to the undignified and puerile maneuver of a filibuster, the U. S. Senate at length, on June 21, voted to override President Truman's veto of the Labor Bill, by six votes more than the necessary two-thirds. Hence the Labor Bill became law despite the president's disapproval, ushering in a new era in the field of Labor-Management relations. A number of conferences of union leaders at Washington, together with their attorneys, were held to map a method for challenging the constitutionality of the new law. CIO president, Philip Murray, called on organized labor for a united front against it, and urged the defeat of all congressmen who voted for it.

Part of the Labor Act became effective at once, the remainder coming into effect after sixty days. Of immediate effect were the provision for the enlargement of the National Labor Relations Board from three to five members and the appointment of a general counsel to prosecute cases of unfair labor practice, arrangements permitting employers to sue unions for damages in certain cases, restrictions as to the dues check-off and union welfare funds, prohibition of union expenditures, and authorization of federal injunctions against strikes affecting the public wel-

fare. Provisions going into effect after sixty days include those outlawing the closed shop and restricting the union shop; defining unfair union practices, and denying bargaining rights to foreman's unions.

U. S. Wool Bill

◆ In the latter part of June the U. S. Wool Price-Support Bill attracted some attention. It came in for a presidential veto, accompanied by a statement as to the kind of bill the president would sign. The bill was designed to protect some American wool-growers from foreign competition, there being a world surplus of wool under present market conditions, even though millions of persons needing wool are unable to buy it. The Senate, acting quickly, adopted a new measure conforming to the president's specifications. The new bill authorizes the government to sell its large reserves of wool "without regard to any restriction imposed upon it by law", which will doubtless mean that it will be disposed of at a loss to the government.

U. S. Mines Returned

◆ At the end of June operation of 2,600 U. S. coal mines was again placed under control of their private owners by the government. The properties were seized under the War Labor Disputes Act on May 21 last year and were relinquished as the Coal Mines Administration ordered the American flags that had been flying over the mines in 28 states to be hauled down. Meantime the miners themselves were off on a ten-day vacation, due to return to the mines on July 8, provided there is an agreement reached between their union and the private operators.

Rising U. S. Floods

◆ The floods in the Missouri-Mississippi regions above and around St. Louis continued during late June. As the flood waters rose to the highest flood level in 103 years, reaching a crest of

feet, losses due to the rain-aging rivers rose to \$160,000,000.

French Anti-Government Plot

◆ A plot to overthrow the French government was uncovered at the end of June. It involved, among others, Maj. Georges Loustaneau-Lacau, who was formerly chief secretary of Vatican-endorsed Marshal Petain. The plotters aimed to establish a military dictatorship, described as monarchist, Vichyste and collaborationist. They professed to be acting to prevent a pretended Communist plot to seize the government. The plotters have been sent to the Santé prison. A Brittany Catholic priest, Pierre Rault, was seized but not charged. A dozen machine guns were found in the home of the "good priest".

New French Tax Bill

◆ The French National Assembly on June 24 adopted Premier Paul Ramadier's new tax bill, raising the prices of bread, milk, cigarettes and similar items. The assembly backed the bill by a vote of 302 to 241, 59 members abstaining from voting. The measure also suppressed State subsidies which have kept prices down on some of the necessities of life. The government expects to raise 136,000,000,000 francs, equal to more than a billion dollars, as a result of the new taxes. Demonstrators against the bill seeking to enter the French National Assembly building to present demands for increased wages fought police who guarded the entrance. Strikes throughout the country also resulted. The Catholic unions joined the General Confederation of Labor and other bodies in condemning the government program as tending to increase prices.

Italy's New Cabinet

◆ Premier Alcide de Gasperi's fourth cabinet obtained its first vote of confidence June 21, the Constituent Assembly voting its support 274-231. But there is

much general unrest in Italy, and Communists are stirring up trouble in their determination to have part in the government, from which they have now been excluded. In Venice riots broke out when Premier de Gasperi attempted to address a crowd of 9,000 persons from a palace window facing on spacious St. Mark's Square. The Communists in an organized demonstration made it impossible for the premier to be heard and were successful in breaking up the gathering.

In the Balkans

◆ A majority of the U. N. Balkan Investigation Commission, in a report to the Security Council made public on June 25, held that Yugoslavia, and to a lesser extent Albania and Bulgaria, were responsible for supporting guerrilla warfare along the northern borders of Greece. Representatives of the Soviet, Poland, France, Belgium and Colombia on the commission opposed this finding, contending that the commission was directed to report facts, and leave "findings" to the Security Council. The report stated, however, that much evidence had been found "by direct testimony and by deposition that assistance had been rendered in Yugoslavia to the guerrillas, taking the form of training refugees from Greece within the borders of Yugoslavia, recruiting and dispatching them to Greece for action with the guerrillas' units there, as well as supplying them for this purpose with arms, supplies, etc."

Saudi Arabia Seeks U. S. Loan

◆ Seeking funds for the construction of a railroad from the Arabian American Oil Company installations at Dhahran, on the Persian Gulf coast, to one of King Ibn-Saud's capitals at Riyadh, which is in the heart of the plateau region of Nejd, the Saudi Arabian government has requested a loan from the United States of more than \$100,000,000. The United States government until 1949 has rights at

Dhahran to an air base which can handle bombing planes of any design, including those still in the drawing board stage.

Showdown in Java

◆ The Dutch, on June 21, took steps to bring the lagging Dutch-Indonesian discussions to a conclusion by demanding specific assurances from the Indonesian Republic that it would accept, entirely, all the Netherlands proposals for the interim national government, which were contained in a "final proposal" handed to the Indonesians on May 27. The premier, Sutan Sjahrir, quickly called together key Indonesian leaders for an emergency conference. The plan contained in the "final proposal" calls for immediate establishment of an interim government made up of representatives of the Republic of Java and Sumatra, the States of East Indonesia and West Borneo and a Netherlands Crown representative. The latter will have final say until the United States of Indonesia receive full sovereignty January 1, 1949. The United States of America, in a memorandum, urged the Indonesian Republic to co-operate without delay in the formation of the interim federal government, adding that the United States would be ready to discuss extending financial aid to such a government as soon as it is in operation.

Round-the-World Air Service

◆ Flying around the world from New York to New York, and covering 25,003 statute miles in 13 days 3 hours 10 minutes, fourteen passengers were discharged from the Clipper America at La Guardia Field at 5:14 p.m. on June 30. It was the first commercial round-the-world airplane flight, of which 4 days 3 hours 32 minutes were spent in the air, the direct airline distance covered by the party being 22,219 miles. The remainder of the total number of miles flown represented putbacks due to mechanical difficulties.

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