

AWAKE!

What You Celebrate at Christmas

Knowledge that will amaze those who sincerely believe
they are observing the birth of Christ

Gambling, America's Biggest Business

"Bigger than the steel, the movies or the auto industry"

Siam, the Land of the Free

A jaunt by printed page to the Far East

When Is New Year's Day?

Conflicting dates for marking
the turn of the year



DECEMBER 22, 1946 SEMIMONTHLY

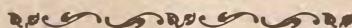
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News sources that are able to keep you awake to the vital issues of our times must be unfettered by censorship and selfish interests. "Awake!" has no fetters. It recognizes facts, faces facts, is free to publish facts. It is not bound by political ambitions or obligations; it is unhampered by advertisers whose toes must not be trodden on; it is unprejudiced by traditional creeds. This journal keeps itself free that it may speak freely to you. But it does not abuse its freedom. It maintains integrity to truth.

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"Awake!" pledges itself to righteous principles, to exposing hidden foes and subtle dangers, to championing freedom for all, to comforting mourners and strengthening those disheartened by the failures of a delinquent world, reflecting sure hope for the establishment of a righteous New World.

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AWAKE!

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

Volume XXVII

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Number 7-10

What You Celebrate at Christmas

EVERY year at this time there is great excitement within the nations of Christendom. Feverishly the people rush from store to store in the biggest spending spree of the year. Prices are higher; people go far beyond their means; debts are made that take months to pay. The precious jewels and trivial toys they get are carefully wrapped in glistening gift-packages for friends and relatives. The occasion calls for elaborate preparations, and so the houses and homes are decorated with holly, candles and wreaths. Evergreen trees are trimmed with pretty ornaments, colored lights, sparkling tinsel and fancy candies. As the shortest day of the year approaches in the northern hemisphere there is a last-minute rush to stock the pantry shelves and larders with special foods and provisions, sufficient at ordinary times to last a week. Large quantities of wines and liquors are also secured. Nervously, housewives cook and bake, for there must be plenty of tasty cakes, cookies and candies, and all kinds of delicious goodies on hand. Then, at last, after weeks of fuming and fussing and over-excitement, the climax is reached on December 25. It is Christmas Day!

But do you know what all this means? And do you know what you are celebrating on this day of festivity? In answer, no doubt, you will tell about the birth of Jesus; about a "star" of Bethlehem that led "three wise men" as they brought

gifts; about angels singing to shepherds: "On earth peace, good will toward men." You will say that Christmas is the greatest celebration of the year, for it is the celebration of the Savior's birthday!

But why the Christmas tree and all the trimmings? Why the mistletoe, holly, candles and yuletide logs, the fruits and nuts, and mince pies? Why the feasting and banqueting, the excessive wine and liquor, the drunkenness and licentiousness that goes to make up the "Christmas spirit"? Can you answer these questions? Or, if it is such a joyful occasion, can you explain why people say, "I'll be glad when it's over"? What has all of this to do with the Savior who was finally nailed to a stake? If you cannot answer, then you had better read the history of these traditional customs so that next year you will know what you celebrate if you observe Christmas.

First of all the date, December 25. There must be some question as to whether this is the correct date, since the Eastern and Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas on January 6. So let us check up and find out whether Jesus was born on December 25.

Date of Christ's Birth

The only reliable history on the subject, of course, is the Bible, which begins with a recounting of the birth of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus. All the priests served at the temple during the three great annual feast weeks. Dur-

ing the balance of the year their temple service was divided up into "courses", each of a week's duration. (2 Kings 11:7; 2 Chronicles 23:8) The account in Luke shows that John's father, Zacharias, was serving at the temple in the eighth course of the year, called "Abijah". (Luke 1:5, 8, 23, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) The Jewish lunar year began two weeks before the passover in the month Abib, around April 1. (Exodus 12:2) Allowing for the passover week, it follows that the eighth course in which Zacharias served occurred in the early part of our month of June. It was at that time that the Lord told Zacharias that his wife Elizabeth would conceive a son. Hence John's conception took place sometime during the month of June.—Luke 1:28-25.

When Elizabeth was with child, in the sixth month, the angel of the Lord appeared unto her cousin Mary, the mother of Jesus. (Luke 1:26, 27, 30, 31, 36) This was in December, six months after John's conception in June. Hence, the Scriptures show that Jesus was not born in December, but, instead, it was in that month that Mary was first visited by the angel's announcement. Consequently, Jesus was born nine months later, around the latter part of September or the first of October.

That the birth of Jesus was in the early autumn and not in December is further shown by the fact that the shepherds were in the fields with their flocks before the rainy season had set in. (Luke 2:8-20; Ezra 10:9, 13) Moreover, Luke's account (3:21-23) states that when Jesus reached thirty years of age He was baptized in the Jordan river; and that did not occur in the dead of winter. If further proof is necessary, then it can be shown from the Scriptures that Jesus was nailed to the tree when He was 33½ years old. And since this occurred at passover time, in the spring of the year, then He must have been born thirty-three years and six months previously, in the fall of the year.

The Origin of "Christmas"

Why, then, do the peoples of Christendom celebrate December 25 as the birthday of Jesus? For the answer we must go back in history more than two thousand years before Christ, to the time of Nimrod. Wicked Nimrod, who was worshiped as god, married his own mother, Semiramis. She was called "the queen of heaven", the "mother of god". This is where the "mother and son", or "madonna" idea, found in many pagan religions and in some so-called "Christian religions", originated.

Those devil-worshippers, believing that life and immortality proceeded from Nimrod, worshiped the never-dying sun in the heavens as the personification and representation of Nimrod's "divinity". When those idolaters were scattered at the time of their tower-building experiment at Babel, their sun-worshiping religion migrated with them. Every year the Persians, Egyptians and others held a great feast in honor of the "birthday" of the sun at the winter solstice or the shortest day of the year, when the sun was "re-born". December 25 therefore became the established day when in reality the pagans celebrated Nimrod's birthday.

There were minor variations of this Nimrod-sun worship. For instance, the Arabians, thinking that the sun was a female, held their annual Nimrod feast in honor of the moon, but at the correct time. Says Stanley's *Sabean Philosophy*: "On the 24th of the tenth month [December, according to our calendar] the Arabians celebrated the birthday of the Lord—that is, the Moon."

Rome, to quote the historian Tacitus, was "the common sink into which everything infamous and abominable flows like a torrent from all quarters of the world". They too held their great "feast of Saturnalia" in honor of the sun. To the north the early Scandinavians, Anglo-Saxons, Celts, and those of the Druid religion, all held their December

feast in honor of the sun's return. The conclusion, therefore, from all of these facts is plain that the celebration of December 25 is purely pagan and demonic in its origin and was celebrated long before Christ was born. For proof of these statements see Hislop's well-known history, *The Two Babylons*, as well as the standard encyclopedias. The *Catholic Encyclopedia*, while attempting to cover up these indisputable facts, is forced to grudgingly admit: "The well-known solar feast, however, of *Natalis Invicti* ['Birthday of the Unconquered'], celebrated on 25 December, has a strong claim on the responsibility for our December date."

Early Christians had nothing to do with this pagan idolatry. Says the *Catholic Encyclopedia*: "Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts." However, not long after the apostles fell asleep 'grievous wolves not sparing the flock' entered in and corrupted pure Christianity. (Acts 20: 29) Tertullian, about A.D. 230, observed that those calling themselves Christians were celebrating this pagan feast in December.

The century after the Catholic Hierarchy had officially adopted practically all the pagan practices, they celebrated on December 25 what they called the "mass of Christ", "Christ-mass," or Christmas. "The Syrians and Armenians," says the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "who clung to Jan. 6, accused the Romans of sun-worship and idolatry," which it was. But calling such abomination by the name of Christ is more than idolatry; it is the height of blasphemy.

Some people take the attitude, "Oh well, why argue about a date? It makes no difference what date you celebrate as long as you remember the birthday of Christ." Such persons, of course, are ignorant of the fact that when Christ lived on earth no one celebrated His birthday, and when He was about to die He com-

manded His followers to henceforth celebrate His *death*, not His *birth*. (Luke 22: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26) The only birthday celebration mentioned in the Bible is where Salome danced to make the birthday of adulterous King Herod "merry"; yes, merry by having the head of John the Baptist chopped off! (See Matthew 14: 6-12; Mark 6: 21-29.) Even Origen of Alexandria (A.D. 185-254) was sharp enough to see the point when he said that "in the Scriptures sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday". (The *Catholic Encyclopedia*, vol. 3, page 724) Hence, the whole idea of celebrating Christmas as the birthday of Christ is entirely foreign to true Christianity.

When confronted with these facts the clergy take the position of that expressed by the editor of the *Catholic World*, "Rev." James M. Gillis, C.S.P., when he said: "It is a well-known fact that popes and councils in the early Church deliberately placed a Christian festival on or near the day of a previously existing pagan carnival, with the purpose of ousting the heathenish and generally licentious celebration." (*Catholic News*, Dec. 2, 1945) But did the Catholic church, or, for that matter, any of the other churches that have since celebrated Christmas, oust "the heathen and generally licentious celebration" of the pagans? No, they have not. Go down the line and you will find that instead of ousting the pagan customs Christendom has adopted them to the shutting out of true Christian worship as commanded in the Bible.

Christmas Trees and Santa Claus

The first Christmas tree in the United States was decorated in 1847. Today there are some 10,000,000 trees cut down and sold every year in this one country alone. England had its first Christmas tree in 1841. A common misunderstanding is that the Christmas tree originated in Germany, some say in the

seventeenth century, others in the eighth century. However, the facts are that the first evergreen tree was set up by Semiramis on the grave of Ninuod to symbolize that he did not really die, but as an immortal god he had triumphed over death. Thereafter the evergreen became a part of the December pagan festival. In Egypt, where the pine was not available, the green branches of the palm tree were used. In India also there was a scarcity of pines, so they made their own imitation out of straw wrapped with rope and plastered over with mud, into which were stuck oleander twigs for branches. The pagan Romans likewise decorated their homes with green boughs for the great feast of Saturnalia. But they also added apples, nuts and balls to their Saturnalia decorations.

And what about Santa Claus, where does he come from? It seems that back in the fourth century there lived a "saint" Nicholas, bishop of Myre, whom the early Dutch settlers in New York called Santa Klaus. His insignia was three golden balls which became the familiar symbol of pawnshops, and such places are anything but Christian. Originally Santa was pictured as a rather pale, ascetic and simple fellow, but in 1863 he was dressed up by a cartoonist as a "jolly good fellow". In such costume he stands on the street corners with hand extended begging. Christian? Never!

So often people call their Santa Claus "St. Nick", and this name has real meaning. Says *The Century Dictionary*: "Nick [Not found in ME.; known in mod. use only in *Old Nick, the devil*, supposed to be a perverted use of (St.) *Nicholas* . . .]." And if it will help you to remember that Santa is really the Devil, then think of *Satan*. The same letters are used to spell both. Down Mexico way they have a better way to represent the Devil. Their mythological Santa Claus is called Quetzalcoatl, Quetzal for short, and is pictured as a plumed or feathered serpent.

More Pagan Customs

Candles, yule logs and fireworks that are used at Christmas time are all of pagan origin. Little wax candles just like the ones used today were used in the feast of Saturnalia. The word "yule" comes from the Chaldee name for "infant" or "little child". Long before Christ was on earth Scandinavians burned the yule log in their annual December festival. To add to the din and noise of the celebration, in Italy, in the fourteenth century, fireworks were introduced from the Orient. The Chinese and Hindus had used fireworks in their demon-worship long before Europeans knew of gunpowder. Hence there is no Christianity in any of these things.

And what about the unrestrained feasting and drinking that has become a traditional part of Christmastime? Indeed there is nothing Christian in all of this. The ancient pagans all celebrated the December occasion with much feasting, drinking, dancing and unrestrained orgies. Said Tertullian, in the third century, "gifts are carried to and fro, new year's day presents are made with din, and sports and banquets are celebrated with uproar." At first the Saxons drank ale to excess out of the skulls of their vanquished enemies. Later they drank their brew out of huge wassail bowls.

Gluttony in eating as well as drinking is very much a part of Christendom's Christmas. The director of a large Philadelphia hospital once said that on Christmas more cases were treated for acute indigestion than during all the rest of December. These pseudo-Christian gluttons are condemned in no uncertain terms by Holy Writ. (See Galatians 5: 19-21; Philippians 3: 19; Proverbs 23: 21.)

Much of the Christmas feasts are built around special dishes that are traditional for this time of year. But the tradition has come down from the pagans. In many European countries Christmas meat is usually roast pork, a

custom that finds its origin with the Druids, who sacrificed a boar's head to their goddess Freya at this season. Cookies made in the shape of humans and animals for decorations originally were used to represent the animals and humans that were sacrificed by the Druids to their demon gods. Even in Jeremiah's day the heathen were making special cakes for "the queen of heaven", who was Nimrod's wife, Semiramis (Jeremiah 7: 18). Mince pie with its spices harks back to the same land of the Persians.

Orgies of the Mistletoe

The history back of the ivy, holly and mistletoe which are hung in homes at Christmastime is also eye-opening. Ivy in ancient times was associated with the drinking parties that were held in honor of Bacchus, the god of wine. In worshiping the sun as the source of life holly was thought to be sacred because it was always green. The Druids considered mistletoe especially sacred, and hence mystic rites were performed with mistletoe at the winter solstice. "The privilege of the mistletoe" permitted a youth to kiss a girl beneath the mistletoe as many times as he pleased provided he gave her a berry each time. With such beginning there was no telling what debauchery followed after the berries were gone. So violent were those kissing orgies that it became a common saying that any girl that was not kissed under the mistletoe would not be married during the year. So what place have these trimmings in homes unless, in fact, to commemorate these pagan customs?

After tearing away all these pagan traditions from the Christmas celebration are there not some good things left? What about the gifts to the poor, the Christmas carols and beautiful orchestral music, as well as the fine Christmas art? Does not the cry of 'Peace on earth, good will toward men' do some good in this troubled old world?

Take the matter of gifts for the poor.

Few destitute families are forgotten on Christmas. But what about the rest of the year, who remembers them then? Or does one basket of food last them the whole year? Religionists soothe their conscience by once-a-year giving to the poor, which relieves their misery but a moment. Christians remember the poor and destitute throughout the year. The giving of gifts on Christmas is entirely pagan. It was the "wise men", or magi, who were heathen of the East, that brought gifts at the birth of Jesus; not the shepherds notified by God and that came praising God. (Matthew 2: 1-11; Luke 2: 8-20) The exchanging of gifts at the feast of Saturnalia by the pagans is testified to by Tertullian and others.

Some lovers of music and art will say that the real spirit of Christmas is interpreted by Bach and Handel in music, and by Giotto and Durer in art, and therefore God must approve of Christmas by inspiring these old masters. God did not inspire those men any more than He inspired the scientists to produce an atom bomb! The hymns that the pagans sang in their feast of Saturnalia were the forerunners of the Christmas carols.

It was the holy angels that first sang about 'peace on earth and good will toward men', with bumble fisherman-followers of Christ later taking up the theme. At no time did the Pharisees, lawyers, commercialists and political rulers take up the 'peace and good will' song. So today, when you hear the big preachers, big financiers and big politicians discordantly crying about a "just and lasting peace" that they intend to set up, then beware of them. They are not asking Christ the King of Theocracy to rule over them. Rather they are howling the peace-song spoken of in 1 Thessalonians 5: 3: "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them."

Blasphemous and Commercial

From the beginning to the end Christ-

mas is pagan and demonic. There is nothing Christian about it except the first part of its name, and this is where great harm is done. Satan the Devil, "old Nick," caused the name of Christ to be attached to this demoniacal celebration in order to bring great reproach upon both Jehovah God and His beloved and anointed King and in order to turn creatures away from God and His kingdom, from which life and blessings come. Not only is the eternal welfare of the people thus injured, but also their material interests are damaged by the commercial Christmas racket.

Christmas can be spoken of in terms of so many dollars and cents. It is predicted that the pagan racket this year will take in from 10 to 25 percent more than it did last year. Savings accounts alone, such as the "Christmas Club" arrangement, poured out nearly \$760,000,000 this year. The "Christmas card" idea is one of the most lucrative there is. Look at the impractical novelties and worthless junk that are left in the wake of Christmas every year! Under commercial advertising pressure, which is increased by the newspapers and radios and forwarded by religion, the people, who, for the most part, can ill afford it, are forced to pay exorbitant prices for the stuff.

And here is something more to think about. Early Christians had nothing to do with the Nimrod-sun worship of the

pagans. Early Americans, Puritans and Quakers who fled from religious persecution to freedom's shores did not celebrate the re-christened pagan holiday. In Massachusetts it was outlawed in 1659 and did not become a legal holiday until 1855. In England it was forbidden for eighteen years. Today real Christians do not dishonor Jehovah God and His Christ by celebrating December 25, notwithstanding the boastful claims of the Vatican that they have "sanctified" the pagan practices and orgies of the heathen by their adoption into the Catholic calendar of "holy" days.

However, there is no prohibition on Christmas today. If you want to celebrate this pagan holiday you are free to do so. Only be honest with yourself and your children. Tell your children that there is more to it than gumdrops and lollipops. Tell your children what all the heathenish things mean: the Nimrod trees, yule logs, firecrackers, mince pies, animal cookies and the mistletoe. Tell your children who Santa Claus really is. Tell your children that Christmas is a God-dishonoring fraud that enslaves the people mentally, morally and physically. In short, tell your children the truth, and not lies. Then only, with such good parental example, they may be expected to tell you the truth. Your children also are entitled to know what they celebrate at Christmas.

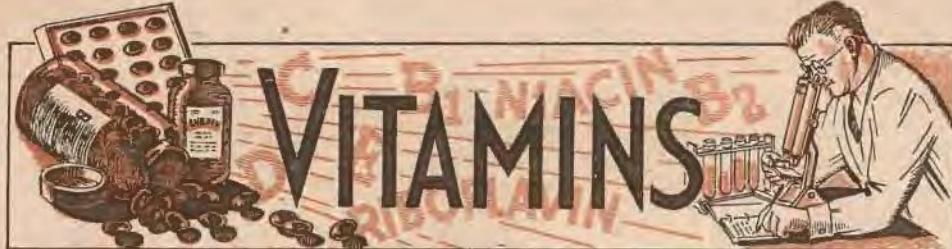
What Price Health?



Youthful countenances brightened at the announcement of newly developed spinach-flavored ice cream. It looked like deliverance from the pricking horns of the dilemma, eat distasteful spinach and be strong or shun it and accept weakness. But alas, with passing years the glad prospects of eating spinach and liking it have faded, for the announcement was made eight years ago, and yet no "spinach ice cream".

Modern medicine has not developed a vaccine to combat wanton greed. Said Dr. Lendrum, assistant professor at Illinois medical school, when discussing temptations of surgeons, "A doctor can collect \$500 for operating and only \$25 for discovering there is no need for an operation." In a world where honesty is often considered a weakness, doctors need staunch integrity to resist the infectious disease of greed.





FOR hundreds of years information has been accumulating which pointed to the fact that certain diseases were caused by improper diet. That some diseases were due to dietary deficiencies first began to be understood when scurvy, a disease which killed thousands of sailors during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, was cured simply by administering citrus fruit juices. Greater light was thrown on this theory when an outbreak of beriberi in the Japanese navy was brought under control by means of a complete dietary change.

Then came the discovery by two American investigators, McCollum and Davis, that young animals fed upon purified foodstuffs, such as purified casein, starch and lard together with an appropriate salt mixture, failed to grow and that normal growth was resumed when natural butter fat and egg yolk were added to the diet. They concluded that certain fats contained a dietary essential not heretofore recognized. Other experiments by Osborne and Mendel showed that lack of this essential factor not only retarded growth but that in older animals it led to known characteristic diseases. This unknown factor was called an unidentified dietary factor, fat-soluble A.

In the year 1912 the name "vitamine" was originated by Dr. Casimir Funk to describe a substance which he had concentrated from yeast and rice polishings, and which proved to be effective in treating beriberi. He believed that there were other substances similarly essen-

tial to good health and to life itself, and that all of these undiscovered substances contained nitrogen. Therefore he used the term "amine", derived from the chemical description of the nitrogen-containing compounds, and prefixed to "amine" the Latin term "vita", meaning life. Thereby the word "vitamine" came into existence. The final "e" was later dropped when it was found that not all of these nutritive substances contained nitrogen. The term vitamin was applied then to the known dietary factor, fat-soluble A, and this factor became known as vitamin A. The two subsequently discovered "water soluble factors" were called vitamins B and C. Today the existence of several vitamins is known and established, and the existence of several is suspected.

In scientific research much knowledge has been accumulated relative to vitamins. It is known today that vitamins are not foods nor substitutes for foods. Vitamins are food constituents, that is, protective factors found naturally in most foods, and must be ingested in sufficient amounts to preserve good health. Vitamins come from both animal and vegetable foods. In general, however, vegetable foods must be regarded as the primary source, since animals depend upon plants for most of their vitamins. Vitamins are built up in plants as they grow and are transferred to the human or animal organism by the use of plant foods in the diet. Vitamins are natural chemical substances or groups of substances which are found in very minute

quantities. Chemically they are compounds of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and sometimes nitrogen, sulphur and chlorine.

The first of these found naturally in foods was vitamin A. It exists in three forms in nature. Most dark-green and yellow colored vegetable products contain one or more of a group of yellow-colored substances known as carotenes. The body is able to absorb these carotenes and convert them into active vitamin A, which it then stores, generally in the liver, for its own use. For this reason these carotenes are referred to as "provitamin A", or as vitamin A "precursors". It may be noted, then, that color in vegetables generally indicates a rich source of vitamin A. Two forms of true or active vitamin A have been identified: one found in the livers of salt-water fish, known as vitamin A₁; the other in the livers of fresh-water fish, known as vitamin A₂. Structurally these two forms are closely related, and biologically they exhibit the same activity. Therefore they are referred to simply as vitamin A. In foods of animal origin, such as butter and cheese, vitamin A may be present in the provitamin form or in the converted active A form; or both forms may be present. Foods rich in vitamin A which have not been mentioned are broccoli, lettuce, liver (beef), peas (dried) and pumpkins.

The view now accepted is that a deficiency of vitamin A has two main consequences. First, the drying or hardening of the cellular tissue (epithelium) covering the skin and mucous membranes. One of the most unpleasant manifestations of this is that of the eyelids and cornea becoming dry and inflamed and the failure of the tear glands to secrete, resulting in a drying condition of the eye. This disease is known as xerophthalmia. In severe cases this condition may be followed by bacterial attack leading to permanent loss of sight. The second consequence of vitamin A de-

ficiency is the condition known as night blindness (nyctalopia). The ability of the eye to see depends on the presence of a complex substance known as visual purple; on the exposure of light this is converted into the material called visual yellow. If vision is to continue, the visual purple must be reformed and it is in the regeneration of visual purple that vitamin A functions. If an adequate supply of vitamin A is present the rate of regeneration is rapid; if a deficiency exists, the rate will be slow, thus producing the condition known as night blindness.

Generally an adequate supply of vitamin A stimulates secretion, which lubricates the mucous membranes and skin tissue, preventing dryness. The body has a higher resistance to infection. Vitamin A is an important aid in reproduction and lactation. It is beneficial in promoting normal growth, teeth formation, and maintaining of good health.

Vitamin B was first found to be present in yeast and in the germ and outer layers of wheat. It was first thought to be a single substance which prevented and cured beriberi. The study of the sources of vitamin B showed that there must be more than one kind of vitamin B present. Heat treatment, which destroyed the ability to prevent beriberi, left the substance remaining endowed with growth-promoting potency and the ability to prevent skin lesion known as pellagra. When this growth-promoting factor, which was heat-stable, was omitted from the diet, animals showed symptoms that resemble pellagra, growth was retarded, loss of hair occurred, sore mouth, dermatitis and other complications arose. From this it was reasoned that yeast and wheat germ contained at least two kinds of water-soluble vitamin B: one, the beriberi preventive; the other (the more heat-stable), the pellagra preventive vitamin. The search for this second factor resulted in the discovery that there were not only two substances,

but a group of vitamin B factors. Thus the name vitamin B complex was applied to the group as a whole. Vitamin B complex is now known to contain factors B_1 (thiamine), B_2 , B_3 , B_4 , B_6 and B_8 , also known chemically as pyridoxine. Other factors are niacin, pantothenic, para-aminobenzoic and folic acids, choline, biotin, inositol, antianemic substance, and other less known factors. Claims have been made for at least five of these factors.

The first is B_1 . This is found in wide variety of foods, but the amounts are never very high. The largest proportions of B_1 are found in Brewer's yeast and the embryo of cereals and wheat. Other fairly rich sources of B_1 are egg yolk, muscle meats, nuts, beans, peas and peanuts. Vitamin B_1 is water soluble, and large portions are extracted by the water used in cooking. The presence of baking soda and prolonged heating is also harmful. A deficiency of this vitamin results in general weakness, nervousness, poor appetite, gastric and intestinal disturbance and a general loss of energy.

Another important factor of the B complex group is the second member, known as B_2 , or sometimes called vitamin G. The chemical name is riboflavin. A lack of this vitamin causes bloodshot eyes, with extreme sensitivity to light, burning, itching and dimness of vision. The tongue is often magenta-colored and rough. In more severe deficiency there develops a condition known as "cheilosis", with fissures in the corners of the mouth and sebaceous disturbance of the nose, eyelids and ears. If due to riboflavin deficiency, these conditions correct themselves promptly when the vitamin is restored. Sources of this vitamin are found in bananas, beans, lean beef, whole-wheat bread, eggs and milk.

The third constituent of the vitamin B complex group is the substance that prevents pellegra and is now known as niacin, sometimes referred to as nicotinic

acid, or the "P-P" factor, meaning pellagra preventive. Niacin is not affected by the amount of heat involved in cooking, canning or drying. Canned foods such as salmon, corned beef, vegetables and tomato juice are almost as good as fresh foods for sources of this factor.

It is possible, by means of fuller's earth, to extract from yeast the substance known as vitamin B_6 . Cases have been reported of humans who have been cured of pellagra and beriberi by doses of niacin, thiamine, and riboflavin, but who did not completely recover until given the B_6 factor. It seems, therefore, that it is essential to human nutrition and is believed to play a significant part in the vitalization of what are known as unsaturated fatty acids that are present in a number of vegetable oils.

Knowledge of the remaining factors of the B complex is still meager.

The first disease definitely recognized as being due to an inadequate diet is probably scurvy. The chief characteristic of this disease is the tendency for bleeding to occur because the capillaries, carrying the blood, fracture very easily. This bleeding takes place under the skin, forming red spots; in the joints, causing pain; and the gums bleed and become loose, so that the teeth fall out. In extreme cases the disease is fatal. The British navy discovered that the most effective remedy to bring this disease under control was oranges and lemons. This antiscorbutic (that is to say, anti-scurvy) substance was later called vitamin C, which name it still retains. The known function of vitamin C is that it favors good bone and tooth formation. It is necessary in the maintaining of the health of blood vessels.

Oranges, lemons and grapefruit, or their canned juices, are the richest, most easily available year-round sources. A small glassful of fresh or commercially canned juice usually provides the official "minimum", or a little more.

Vitamin C is the most easily destroyed

of any, air and heat being its bitter enemies. Certain fruits lose up to 95 percent of their vitamin C content when cooked, and loss begins the moment the knife pierces the skin. Commercially-canned vegetables and fruits often retain good percentages of their original content because they may be processed fresh from the field, and are cooked in partial vacuum.

Vitamin D is known for its effectiveness in the prevention and cure of rickets. Because of this it is known as the "antirachitic" vitamin. There are several D vitamins. In fact, at least ten substances have been reported as having rickets-healing potency. The two most important will be considered here. These are vitamin D₁ (calciferol) and vitamin D₂ (activated 7 dehydro-cholesterol). The term vitamin D is commonly used to include both of these forms. These two forms of vitamin D are produced by the action of ultraviolet light upon substances known as sterols. The effect of sunlight on the human body is similar. The skin contains suitable sterols, and under the influence of certain radiation present in bright sunlight they are converted into vitamin D. These sterols, therefore, can be regarded as provitamins. Vitamin D₂ comes from plant life; and vitamin D₃, from animal fats. Irradiated yeast widely used in medical preparations is the vitamin D₂ form. Vitamin D₃ is the form occurring in fish liver oils, irradiated milk, and other irradiated animal products.

Vitamin D helps regulate the body's utilization of calcium and phosphorus.

It is essential for the formation of strong bones, teeth, and normal growth.

In 1922 a substance was found to be present in wheat germ oil that enabled sterile rats to reproduce successfully. This substance was called vitamin E, or the antisterility vitamin. Various claims have been made relative to the beneficial effects of large amounts of vitamin E on the fertility of cattle and hogs, but as far as human creatures are concerned the importance of E is still in doubt.

Vitamin K, named after the German word Koagulation, aids in the coagulation of the blood and is therefore known as the "anti-hemorrhagic" vitamin. The use of this vitamin is confined principally to the medical profession. It is of value in certain operations, particularly those affecting the liver and gall bladder, and is frequently used as a general pre-operative precaution. This vitamin is present in a variety of foodstuff, such as green leafy vegetables, tomatoes, hemp-seed, soybeans and liver. It is not certain to what extent vitamin K is necessary for humans, but the general consensus of opinion is that there is not likely to be any deficiency in a normal diet.

In conclusion, it may be said that vitamins act in co-operation or interrelation with each other as well as with the minerals, carbohydrates, proteins and fats. Therefore vitamins alone should not be considered as a panacea for human ills, but rather as a dietary essential, interplaying with other dietary factors, which is necessary for buoyant health. The diet should be well balanced and well varied and every effort should be made to depend on natural food whenever possible.

Easy Come, Easy Go

There is more money in circulation in the United States than ever before. Before the Wall Street crash in 1929 there was \$4,840,000,000 circulating. In 1940 it was \$8,732,000,000. Today there is more than \$28,000,000,000 flowing through the fingers of the people. However, Mr. You and Mrs. Me are no better off. If we get higher wages it means that our living costs are higher, our taxes are higher, and our fevers are higher.



"AMERICA is riding high and dizzily on what is perhaps the greatest gambling binge in its history." Those were the opening words of a lengthy report received over our *International News Service* teletype in October. INS staff correspondents had just completed a coast-to-coast survey of the many and devious gambling rackets throughout the country, and their report uncovered some very startling facts.

From the "numbers" racket to the "thousand-dollar-a-minute" game called *chemin de fer*, gambling is a going concern with a daily intake running into the millions. Horse racing, baseball, football and prize fight pools, dice games, poker, gin rummy and ronlette, bingo and blackjack, are only some of the leeches that are sucking money out of the spineless public. But take a closer look at this billion-dollar business.

In New York James L. Kilgallen of INS introduces us to Michael MacDougall, famous gambling detective, who says that at least \$6,000,000 is bet on the horses at a track in a single day. This is but one of the rackets. "A northern New Jersey syndicate," says MacDougall, "takes a couple of million dollars a week from New Yorkers. 'Steerers' for the syndicate have cars at strategic spots in Manhattan and carry the suckers over to Jersey. The limousines leave every half hour every night." The poorer classes, like those living in Harlem, can't afford to ride these limousines across the Hudson river, so they gamble at home with what is called the "numbers"

game. This consists of betting on the last three digits of the stock exchange total sales or on the last three numbers of the receipts at race tracks as given by the totalizer.

If we fly down to Washington, D.C., James Lee of INS will take us around the nation's capital to see how the "big-wigs" gamble away their money. Open gambling is not permitted, but undercover horseplayers are in full gallop, pouring out cash to the tune of nearly \$32,000,000 a year. "Many a pretty government girl," Lee says, "conceals a tip sheet in her desk and dashes out daily to make a furtive telephone call to a bookie."

Just outside the capital in Virginia and Maryland gambling establishments are doing a landslide business with Washingtonians by telephone and by "runners". Although the police force has made the open gambling house as hard to find as a vacant hotel room, the people still support the racket. Lee puts it this way: "The difference between Washington gambling and the kind of play that goes on in more uninhabited cities like New York, Chicago and San Francisco is that most of the chance-taking in the nation's capital is under cover. After all, a lot of people in Washington work for Uncle Sam and their boss doesn't like gambling. Officially, that is."

Florida is a winter playground in more than one way. Each year a cosmopolitan horde of professional gamblers, businessmen, labor leaders, sportsmen and fashionably-dressed women trek

down to Florida for a fling at gambling, and incidentally, a bit of sunshine. Those "in the know" say that the 1945-46 season down there amounted to \$200,000,000 "take" by the racketeers.

New Orleans, says Pat McDonnell of INS, was crammed with a great number of "joints", some called "sporting clubs", where those who wished to woo Lady Luck could bet anything from a thin dime on up. That is, up until May 6 of this year, when a new mayor put the lid on gambling. That "official" closing down, of both the swanky places where \$1,000 blue chips were used and the residential places where old ladies played penny ante, only meant that much of the \$45,000,000 annual business was moved to the near-by parishes or counties of Jefferson and St. Bernard.

Riotous Midwest Gambling

Swinging on up to St. Louis we learn that remnants of the old Al Capone gang of Chicago are "muscling in" on lucrative St. Louis gambling. In East St. Louis, where it is said that slot machines are more easily found than telephone booths, the Chicago gangsters in six months skimmed off more than \$60,000 in profits. Dave Park of INS explains why gambling flourishes so out here. Says he: "It has been rumored that East St. Louis gamblers have been making substantial contributions to political campaigns for some years. Such contributions, it is said, always go to both political parties. The party that looks like the potential winner in an election campaign always gets the largest contribution, according to those who profess to know."

"Metropolitan Cincinnati is studded with casinos and clubs," says the INS man, Thornton Argyle. Here gambling rages at a hectic pace day and night — by day it's the horse, and by night it's cards, dice, poker, chuck-a-luck and blackjack. The estimated "take" is more than \$1,500,000 weekly on a year-round

basis. The police and reform groups threaten crusades against gambling from time to time but, like the Ohio river, the games of chance "just roll along".

But the hot spots are across the river in the foothills of Kentucky; that is where the real night-life gambling is played. The lush clubs in those regions serve plenty of food with an artistic background of glamorous entertainment. It is not unusual in those places to see stacks of chips with a face value of \$3,000 to \$5,000 in front of players.

In the state of Indiana gambling goes on as in other places. Some towns, particularly along the Kentucky border, are more open than others. Eugene Cadou of INS says that Indianapolis has its share of baseball pools, pick-and-win tickets, policy numbers and punch boards. The baseball pool alone has an annual "take" of \$3,500,000.

The crime commission of Chicago says that the gambling industry in that city yearly takes in \$250,000,000. But Mayor Edward J. Kelly says that there is no organized gambling in the windy city. Lee Ferrero of INS didn't believe the mayor, and so he began to investigate for himself. What he dug up makes one think it is the mayor, and not the city, that is windy.

Ferrero can take you around to peek into any number of disreputable beer parlors, pool halls and dives where they gamble from morning till dark. Or he can show you lush-plush joints and poker palaces, where dice and the "\$1,000-a-minute" French card game called chemin de fer are exceedingly popular. With plenty of money afloat gambling goes on apace, Kelly notwithstanding, in the big, lusty city of Chicago.

The Gambling Capital of America

For a visit to the "Monte Carlo" of America we must leave Chicago and fly to Las Vegas, Nevada, where Julian Hartt of INS will show us around the town that has more legal gambling

palaces than any other community in the nation. "Even Reno," says Hartt, "has taken a back seat to Las Vegas as the top attraction of free-and-easy Nevada, as tourists being divorced of their dollars have exceeded unhappy wives being divorced of their husbands."

Only 90 minutes away from Hollywood by air, Las Vegas received \$20,000,000 in profits from the thousands of gambling visitors in 1945. Many tourists fully expect to lose, but this is not an original idea, since the operators of the "gravy train" also expect them to lose. After all, this is the gambling capital of America.

Out in California the people wildly play the ponies at the tracks the same as the rest of the country. Gin rummy and poker are favored around Hollywood. One of the most spectacular enterprises in recent times was the converting of a mine sweeper into a gambling ship and anchoring it several miles off Long Beach. Taxi service, à la salt water, took the customers out to the ship, where professional gamblers cleaned them of their cash as quickly as

a fisherman de-scales a fish. The Coast Guard finally seized the vessel.

From this round-up of news it is evident that a great wave of gambling has engulfed America. Everywhere, harassed businessmen and people with jittery nerves, seeking relief from the cares of life, steal off to some swanky hideout, country club or race track, where they plunge themselves into an orgy of gambling. Even housewives who ten years ago would have been shocked at the thought of "laying a bet" on the nags can now read the form sheets as readily as an OPA price list.

Gambling is "the biggest business in America today—bigger than the steel, the movies or the auto industry", and the victims are the millions of gambling fools. People are getting higher wages than ever before, but, as the Scottish proverb says, "A fool and his money are soon parted." Riotous and carefree living marks these "last days".

But who are to blame, when the people are taught the gambling bingo game in the churches? Trust religion's business clergymen not to miss this source of easy mammon.

The Greeks Had a Word for It

B EYOND the realm of probable speeds at which airplanes will travel in the future are the "estimated" speeds space ships will have when bound for the moon. If you cast a look of skepticism in the direction of the exponents of such "lunaships" they will tell you that a rocket has already risen 104 miles in altitude, and others are now under construction that will reach 500 miles out into space. They may even quote the New York *Herald Tribune*: "The War and Navy Departments revealed today [June 30, 1946] that plans are under way to launch a guided missile or rocket to the moon. If all goes well, it was said, the attempt will be made within the next twelve to eighteen months."

And how fast will these moon-hound missiles travel? Some senators say 100,000 miles an hour. For obtaining an estimate on the speed of a space ship with men aboard we are indebted to the *Hindustan Times*: "Major Alexander de Seversky, famous airplane designer, says that the first man to reach the moon will do so not in a rocket but in a space ship, powered by atomic energy at 139,000 miles per hour and controlled by artificial gravity." One wonders if the ancient Greeks, when they coined the word *lunatic*, meaning 'one who is moonstruck', had a vision of men today who are planning a trip to the moon.

Siam, the Land of the Free



FREEDOM is a prize that men of all nations seek to gain and retain, and those who obtain some measure of freedom take pride in displaying their jewel before others. Such a people are those who inhabit the central part of the Asiatic peninsula lying between India and China. They call their country *Muang Thaï*, meaning "the land or kingdom of the free"; hence the name Thailand. To the rest of the world Thailand has been known as Siam since the days when Portuguese traders first landed there. They called the country *Siao*, after the word Shan, for at that time the people of the country were known as Tai-Shan. But whether Thailand or Siam, to many the country will still be thought of as the "land of the white elephants".

Travel to Siam's capital, Bangkok, can be by boat or by plane. Landing at the modern airport and riding into the city in an American-made automobile, things seem very much like what one may have been accustomed to back home. But watch out, driver! there's an elephant shuffling along on the road just ahead! The guide assures that stranger things than this will be seen in this land where East meets West.

Siam's Capital

Until recently, Siam had only two classes of people, the rulers and the rest of the people. There was no "middle class". However, it should be remembered that since 1932 the king of Siam has not been the absolute monarch that he was prior thereto. They have what is called a constitutional monarchy. One of the titles of Siam's king is "Lord or Keeper of the White Elephants", because in Siam the white elephant is worshiped and kept in the stables of the king. In Bangkok, the royal capital, one

can see the regal gardens and view the famous elephants. But hold on! they are not white at all! More of a dirty gray than anything else. Actually, they are albinos, with light eyes and white toenails and less pigment in their skin than ordinary elephants. After seeing the lavish care and huge expenditures showered upon the rare beasts one can appreciate the force of the expression that a person has a "white elephant on his hands" when he is stuck with business or venture that bleeds his resources.

Leaving the riches of the king's beautiful oriental gardens, the traveler heads for the center of Bangkok, down along the waterfront, where the masses of the population live. One does not go far till he must take a water taxi, for the streets become canals and the visitor wonders whether he is not in Venice instead of Siam. A zigzagging course through this system of canals leads to the muddy waters of the Menam Chao Phraya. This mighty river of central Siam flows through this metropolis of 800,000.

Here are to be seen some strange sights: houses floating on pontoons, others built on piles, whole families living in tiny boats tied together, other boats darting about with food and wares for sale; indeed they are an amphibious people, these Siamese. But are they Siamese? Not altogether, for there are a great number of Malays, Indians and Chinese mixed in this teeming crowd. Over there on the wharves are endless queues of barebacked coolies, perspiring under the tropical sun as they load foreign freighters. But enough of Chinese junks and lighters jostling one another. And also enough of the confusing smells that assail the nostrils of the visitor to this main port of Siam. One smell alone proclaims its identity above all competi-

tors, the odor of fish. Fish and rice are the main foods of the population.

Walking through the streets of Bangkok one sees two civilizations living side by side, the old Siam and the new Thailand. The old Siam has its narrow streets with vertical signs above the shops, its white, dusty roads that become filthy, muddy lanes in the rainy season, and its throngs of yellow-robed monks. New Thailand has modern boulevards, automobiles, houses and factories of wood and brick, and air-conditioned theaters. On the right is the Red Cross and on the left is the Boy Scouts headquarters. Over there is a modern university. For entertainment the younger generation enjoy such Western sports as football, tennis and golf, and in the evenings they patronize cabarets and theaters. Such is the capital of Siam.

The Eastern Basin

Geographically, Siam divides into four parts: eastern, central, northern and peninsula. But before the tourist strikes out to explore these sections he must exchange his foreign money for the coin of the realm, the *baht*, worth about thirty-eight cents. Traveling northeast from Bangkok the ground steadily rises, till about one hundred miles from the coast a range of mountains is reached that forms the western rim of a huge elevated basin, unproductive and of miserable climate, being either extremely dry or wet. As a result the population

of 2,000,000 in this region eke out a scant existence, and even the traveler is glad to board the next train at Ubon back to Bangkok.

The promise is that the central and northern parts of Siam will be much more interesting to see than the eastern section, and so after a short rest the tourist takes a river boat up the Menam Chao Phraya, the "Nile of Siam". The Menam is not a swift-moving river. In fact, twice a day it seems to stop flowing, reverses itself, and runs upstream! The country is so low and flat that the ocean tide affects the stream for a distance of fifty miles.

The Central Rice Bowl

On either side of this river is a great expanse of fertile country, 55,000 square miles in area. Each year during flood season the river overflows its banks, leaving a rich alluvial deposit of silt. This makes it one of the richest rice bowls in the world. And to speak of rice is to speak of Siam itself. Rice is the main dish; rice is the source of the native drink, arak; rice is the grain on which the livestock feed; rice is the chief export of Siam.

If one goes ashore here he will meet the real Siamese people, the agriculturists attired in their native panung. This dress consists of a piece of cloth a yard

wide and three yards long wrapped around the middle of the body with the ends passing between the legs, and looking like the conventional diaper. But the

panung is very practical for working in the rice paddies, and is therefore worn by both men and women. The children scurry about naked. In Bangkok one sees many Chinese (at least 100,000 reside there), but out here in the central plain they are few. The Chinese are noted for their honesty, and they dominate the wholesale and retail businesses. At one time ninety percent of Siam's commerce flowed through their fingers.

However, back to the native Siamese, the people of the soil. They are medium in height, well-formed, of olive complexion, with broad flat noses and prominent lips. Many of the men and boys have their heads shaved by the priests in some kind of religious rite. But capturing attention are their black teeth! Their blackness is due to the Siamese practice of chewing the nut of the betel palm. Wrapping the nut with some tobacco and lime in the betel leaves, they make a quid which they tuck away in their cheek. Some think that only thus can the true Siamese accent, which sounds like a mumble, be spoken, being punctuated, as it were, with frequent squirtings of bright red juice.

One thing that impresses visitors is the politeness of the Siamese. They are also gentle, sympathetic and patient, not given to violence or quarrelsomeness. However, there is nothing of an inferiority complex about them and they have an air of confidence. Perhaps this is because they consider themselves a free people. The Siamese women enjoy as much freedom as do European women.

No longer do great herds of wild elephants roam over the central plain, and the few that remain are seen lazily shuffling along roads as beasts of burden. The water buffalo is the principal domestic animal hereabouts. It is used for cultivating the rice fields, and for pulling carts it replaces the ox.

Meeting these Siamese and listening to them talk arouses curiosity as to their language. The Siamese alphabet con-

sists of forty-four consonants and thirty-two vowels, and these combine to form monosyllabic words, of which there are less than two thousand. This makes it necessary to use the same words to express different thoughts, and this is provided for by five different inflections of the voice. For example, the word *khaο*. By a combination of inflections this one word can mean *rice*, *they*, *badly*, *white*, *old* or *news*.

The Highlands of the North

About 150 miles up the river Menam from Bangkok the waterway forks to form the Me Ping and the Menam Yome. To reach the city of Chiengmai up the Me Ping it is necessary to abandon the steam launch and take an up-country boat powered by a half dozen natives. With poles and ropes they struggle over the many rapids in this rough country. Northern Siam consists of parallel ranges and valleys running north and south, the valleys being from 800 to 1,200 feet in elevation, and the ranges towering skyward to make peaks of from 5,000 to 8,000 feet. Heavy forests cover the mountains, and the banks of the streams are blanketed with tropical growth.

At last the tourist reaches Chiengmai. It has taken him longer to get here from Bangkok than it would have taken him to sail to London. However, the trip can be made much faster by rail, but the scenery is not as delightful as that seen by boat. Chiengmai is Siam's second city, both in size and in importance. It was founded in the eleventh century and is now the center of the great teak trade. Teakwood is highly valued for its durability and resistance. It is a very dense wood and will not float until it has dried out; so the elephant is relied upon to get out the 100,000 logs a year.

The Lower Peninsula

Returning to Bangkok, the traveler catches a Diesel train for the fourth section of Siam, the peninsula area. Down

the middle of the Malay peninsula on the right runs a chain of mountains that forms the western boundary of Siam. On those mountain slopes hugs one of the densest jungles in the world. This part of the country holds the natural wealth of Siam. Besides the valuable woods and copal gums in the forest there are deposits of manganese, tin and quicksilver, together with some silver and gold. Of tin alone there is an annual output valued at \$9,000,000. Precious gems, particularly rubies and sapphires, also enhance the wealth of the area.

In this country of Siam, 1,350 miles long and 450 miles wide and with a 1,000-mile coastline, there is a great variety of animal life, including leopards, tigers, rhinoceroses, wildcats, bears, gaurs, boars, water buffaloes, besides thousands of elephants. In the treetops are chattering monkeys, and the flashings of brilliant plumage testify to the seemingly infinite number of tropical birds. On the ground beneath glide at least fifty-six varieties of snakes, twelve of which are poisonous. Monstrous "daddy longlegs" bounce along on their three-inch legs. Fish in abundance dart about in the streams and estuaries. The flora of the country is luxuriant and includes both tropical and temperate-climate plants. In addition to the mangosteens, bamboos and palms there are oaks, pines, chestnuts, and peach and apple trees. Also stored back in the forest vaults flourish ebony, rosewood, ironwood and teak. Rice is the main crop, but also cultivated are peppers, sugar cane, pineapples, bananas, cotton, tobacco and rubber.

The explanation for this wide variety in plant and animal life is the weather, best described by the word monsoon. From May till October it rains, and when the rain lets up the heat makes the countryside like a steam bath. In November the shifting wind brings cool nights and hot, dry days.

A Bit of History

When Rama IV became king, in 1851, great advancements were made in the arts of printing, shipbuilding, road and canal construction, and in the improvement of the public health. His son Chulalongkorn carried these reforms even farther. Under his reign slavery was abolished, law courts were established, Siam joined the Postal Union, the first railroad was constructed in 1892, civil administration was improved, and education was extended. This was due to the fact that Chulalongkorn brought in not only Western ideas but also Western technicians as advisors. At one time the general advisor was an American; the managers of the railroads and postal telegraph services were Germans; the naval officers were Danes; the public works employed Italian and French engineers; officials in the finance, customs, police, education, mining, and survey departments were British; while the ministry of justice was held by a Belgian.

Though adopting these Western institutions into his country, Chulalongkorn still maintained his Eastern pomp and glory, and at his death, in 1910, he left behind him, in typical oriental fashion, 134 sons, 236 daughters and 600 widows! Siam has since made long strides toward attaining greater freedom. In 1932 there was a bloodless revolution when a constitutional monarchy was substituted for the absolute form. But when asked why the Siamese hang on to the monarch at all, they reply that for generations they have been taught that he is a direct descendant of Gautama Buddha himself. The people must be freed from this "divine right" superstition gradually.

It will be recalled that the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor the Japanese marched in and took over in Siam, and on January 25, 1942, Siam declared war on the United States and Great Britain. The attitude of the Siamese generally is that that was the work of a few "quislings" in the government, but the

whole country suffered therefrom. Not only were Siam's cities bombed by the Allies, but the Japanese imprisoned and ill-treated those who opposed her iron rule. Economically the occupation cost Siam about \$600,000,000. The Siamese were very happy when the war ended. Since then Siam has not leaned toward Asiatic spheres of influence centered at Chungking, Batavia or New Delhi. Siam's 16,000,000 population has chosen to remain free of all of these.

And What About Freedom?

There is one lingering impression that clings to one after visiting this "land of the free", and that is how much the Siamese are in bondage to religion. Truly it has been called the land of 20,000 temples. The monasteries and temples have about half a million inmates, and that is about one for every thirty persons. Every male sometime during his lifetime is supposed to serve in the priesthood for two months or more.

Buddhism is the official brand of religion, but fetish superstition, that is, believing that the rivers and jungles are full of spirits that must be charmed, is a general belief. A more recent manifestation of demon worship in Siam is the reading of the horoscope. Like other varieties of religion, the high priests of Siam bless the armed forces when they go out to kill their fellow men. Indeed the Siamese are slaves to religion.

Nor have the Catholic and Protestant missionaries freed the people from this bondage. Catholic priests have been active in Siam since the middle of the seventeenth century, but in all that time they have not given the people the enlightenment and freedom contained in the Bible. Protestant missionaries went out there in 1828. They accomplished good, for by 1843 they had the Greek Scriptures translated into the Siamese language and the whole Bible was finished in 1896. But when it came to giving the Siamese freedom through an understanding of the Bible, the Protestants failed as miserably as did the Catholics. Most of the Siamese think they are a free people (Thai) because they are free from the superstitions of Brahmins, but in reality they stand on the very precipice of Armageddon.

Back once again in their homeland, Siam's tourist visitors can say that they have seen a country where there is a strange mixture of the Old Oriental and the New Occidental, where elephants share the highways with motorcars, where medieval concoctions made from rhinoceros horn and snake gall compete with the modern medical dispensary, and where the great masses of the people, calling themselves "free men", are in slavery to religion. Only when the knowledge of Jehovah covers that country as the waters do the great deep will Siam truly be "the land of the free".

Black Light Darkens Criminal Careers



RAYS of light that cannot be seen by the human eye are joining the fight against crime. The rays of this black light, as it is called, when thrown against an ore-bearing body in the night, will cause the metal in rocks to flash brightly.

By this means ore bodies have been discovered. This new light has been used to catch criminals. In one instance, bills turned over to kidnappers were overprinted with an invisible chemical. In due time they were turned in to a bank. The bank teller turned the black light upon them, when they showed in fiery green letters the words "Ransom Money". The kidnaper was arrested and other bills similarly marked were found in his possession.

British Colonies Crush Freedom

BLOOD, sweat and tears paid out by British subjects have not purchased freedom throughout the empire. They have not received their "money's worth". In the two African colonies of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland one is not at all free to worship God; rulers under Jesuit and sectarian missionary thumbs sit as arbitrary spiritual overlords to say what inhabitants of those colonies may or may not have in the way of Bible instruction.

Early in the present century Bible helps published by the Watchtower Society began to circulate in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The clarified Bible truths embarrassed and angered religious missionary bodies, particularly the Jesuit priests of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy. Unable to meet the challenge as to the unscripturalness of their teachings and methods, the religionists resorted to tactics long ago foretold in the Word of Almighty God: "The throne of wickedness . . . frameth mischief by statute." (Psalm 94: 20, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) The "framers" set to work in earnest in 1935. The Roman Catholic attorney-general of Northern Rhodesia, Fitzgerald, piloted through the legislative council legislation aimed at suppressing the literature of Jehovah's witnesses. This section of the Penal Code empowers the governor-in-council "by proclamation (a) to prohibit the importation into the territory of any newspaper, book or document" and "by proclamation (b) to declare any newspaper, book or document to be a seditious document".

No provision is made to contest the governor-in-council's decision or make



representations to him. Successive governors-in-council have used the dictatorial law to prohibit the importation, distribution or possession of Watchtower literature. For the past dozen years many of Jehovah's witnesses have suffered months of imprisonment just because they had these Bible helps.

After this legislation was engineered in Northern Rhodesia labor difficulties occurred in the Copperbelt, resulting in the shooting of six African mine workers by the police. First reports of the disturbance emanated, not from the Copperbelt, but from Broken Hill, the Jesuit headquarters. These telegrams spread inflammatory statements that "agitators connected with the Watchtower movement were suspected to be behind the strikers". A government commission appointed to investigate determined: (1) That Jehovah's witnesses did not participate in the disturbance and had no share in instigating it; (2) that the ring-leaders were the Awemba, a tribe whose spiritual interests are cared for by the Catholic "white fathers"!

Conspiracy

Shortly after the banning of Watchtower publications began in Northern Rhodesia the governor visited Nyasaland. Within a week or two the governor-in-council in Nyasaland issued an identical list of Watchtower publications to be banned. Infamous collusion between the two governments is proved by the fact that both lists contained a supposed publication of the Watchtower Society, namely, "*The End of the World*". Actu-

ally, the Society never issued such a publication.

In Southern Rhodesia the same religious elements, Jesuit priests and various missionary bodies, pressed that government to follow the lead of Northern Rhodesia. The mischief-framers did not have such satisfying success. When the bill was introduced in the House of Assembly the Society warned the legislators of the threat to freedom, and there was strong opposition from members of the Labor party. Hence, when the bill was made law it contained the provision that the individual affected could seek redress before the Supreme Court, a freedom safeguard not in the Northern Rhodesian legislation. During the debate on the bill it was freely admitted by government representatives that the bill was aimed at the Watchtower Society and that they were acting as a result of representations made by "various church bodies". As soon as the bill became law fourteen publications of the Society were banned.

Quickly a test case was instituted in the Southern Rhodesia High Court. The Society's literature was under review for three days. No trace of sedition in any one of the fourteen publications, the court ruled. Dissatisfied, the government appealed to the Supreme Court of South Africa. But that highest court in South Africa confirmed the decision handed down in Southern Rhodesia. The three justices on the bench ruled that there was nothing in the books "expressive of an intention to excite disaffection", and the presiding justice concluded: "The court below was right in ordering the

books to be released and returned to the respondent, and that the appeal should be dismissed with costs."

In view of that carefully deliberated judicial decision, what honest grounds has either the Northern Rhodesia or the Nyasaland government for its suppression of free worship? Recently, in Nyasaland a petition calling upon the governor to release the Society's publications was signed by 25,000 persons. The governor's reaction to this petition of the people is not known as yet.

When the rulers of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland began banning Bible-study books around 1935 there were 340 of Jehovah's witnesses in Nyasaland and 350 in the Rhodesias. As the years rolled by from then till now the witnesses have been beaten, imprisoned, deported from their homes to distant sections of the country to serve in labor gangs; and also through those passing years they have been diligent in preaching by word of month the message of God's kingdom. With what results in the face of religious and governmental persecution and prosecution? Today there are upward of 5,000 witnesses in Northern Rhodesia and about 3,000 in Nyasaland! How the words of the apostle Paul ring true in their ears!—"The things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel." (Philippians 1: 12-14) But the searching question still faces the executive councils of these two British colonies: When will words of freedom ring loud enough in your ears to drown out the clamorings of religious advisers for suppression of liberty to worship?

Even the Pretzel Is Religious!

¶ "They have a very glamorous and romantic history dating back to the mists of antiquity. The word itself stems from the Latin 'pretiola', meaning small reward. The monks used to give pretzels to children as a reward for learning their prayers. As a matter of fact, the twist so peculiar to the pretzel was first designed to represent arms folded in prayer." So said J. C. Walborn, Jr., president of the National Pretzel Bakers Institute, as he launched a campaign to glamorize the humble product.

When Is New Year's Day?

THE ancient Egyptians, Phoenicians and Persians began their year on September 21, at the autumn equinox. At other times in Persia the year began at the spring equinox, on March 21. The Sabians celebrated their new year when the sun entered Aries. The Mohammedans started their calendar in July, A.D. 622. The Chinese, though officially adopting the Gregorian calendar in 1912, still celebrate, in many parts of the country, their old New Year's Day when the first new moon enters Aquarius, sometime between January 21 and February 19. In Russia, up to the eighteenth century, September was the first month of their year. The ancient Germans celebrated December 21, the winter solstice, as the beginning of the year. At one time France and the Low Countries took Easter as the first of the year, notwithstanding the fact that it varied from year to year.

Among all these nations, regardless of the date, New Year's Day was celebrated with great festivity and religious rites in honor of their demon gods. The Chinese made their New Year's one of the greatest festivals in which even the emperor mingled with the peoples in unrestrained merriment. The Japanese, after decorating their portals with greenery that had deep religious significance, made the occasion one of feasting and mirth. The Persians released their prisoners on this day of high festival. The Sabians, together with their priests, marched in procession to the temple, where they offered sacrifices to the gods of the various planets. In religion-drenched India the Hindus call *Prajapatiya*, meaning Lord of creation, their New Year's Day. They offer up male kids, wild deer and buffalo in sacrifice, not to Jehovah the Creator, but to their "god of wisdom" named *Ganesa*. The Druids in Europe celebrated

March 10 as New Year's with mystic rites performed under their sacred oaks on which grew the mistletoe. Little is known of that phallic rite except that the mistletoe was supposed to give fertility to both man and beast.

Even the American Indians had a New Year's celebration which they called So-yal-n-na. It consisted of an elaborate mythical drama in two parts. First, offerings were made to effigies of the great plume-headed serpent, supposedly the enemy of the sun. This was followed by a great sun dance. All together, it was worship of the unseen demons. The native Mexicans on the first day of their year also held a particularly devilish festival in which a human sacrifice was offered up to their gods. Says McClintock & Strong's *Cyclopædia*: "The wretched victim, after having been fayed alive, was carried to the pyramidal summit of the sacred edifice which was the scene of these barbarities, and after his heart had been torn out by a priest in presence of assembled thousands, his body was consumed to ashes by being placed on a blazing funeral pile."

God Fixed the Time

When Jehovah God brought His chosen nation of Israel out of Egypt He made them a free people, even free of all these heathenish New Year's practices. For their good and protection the Lord said: "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you." (Exodus 12: 2) That was the month Abih, in the springtime, two weeks before the first passover, a time when the earth began to bring forth, a time of joy and gladness, a time later marked by the blowing of silver trumpets. (Numbers 10: 2, 3, 10) This Jewish month Abih, or Nisan, started each year with the new moon nearest the spring equinox. But the Jews do not

care for God's arrangement, and so they start their new year in the autumn, in the month Tisri. The Jews, while saying that their ecclesiastical year begins with the month Abih, nevertheless celebrate New Year's in Tisri with religious show.

The Roman New Year's

Both the Greeks and Romans at one time began their year at the winter solstice, December 21, but later it was changed to the feast of *Ancylia* in March, a month named after Mars, the god of war. The priests of Mars called *salii*, or leapers, put on their biggest performance of gymnastics on March 19 in order to bribe their god for another year. It was an occasion of great revelry.

This early calendar, however, was so inaccurate that by the year 46 B.C. Julius Caesar had to add two months to bring it around to the correct season. At the same time Jannary was made the first month of the new Julian calendar. January 1 was celebrated in honor of Janus, the two-faced "father-god" of Rome. He was supposed to have been the highest mogul of all, in addition to being the "janitor" of heaven. (Our word "janitor" is from Janus.) The New Year's celebration by the Romans was an occasion of over-indulgence. Says McClintock & Strong's *Cyclopædia*: "Pliny tells us that on the first of January . . . the people gave themselves up to riotous excess, and various kinds of heathen superstition. The first Christian emperors kept up the custom, though it tolerated and afforded the opportunity for idolatrous rites."

At first the Catholic church thought of weaning the people away from the riotous feasting, dancing and revelry of the pagans by observing the day in fast-

ing. "Christian writers and councils condemned the heathen orgies and excesses connected with the festival of the *Saturnalia*, which were celebrated at the beginning of the year." (*Catholic Encyclopedia*) Tertullian, an early "church father", condemned the practices. The Council of Anserre, in the sixth century, forbade observance of the diabolical revelry in connection with the worship of *Strenia*, the goddess of New Year's Day. But when, in the eighth century, the Hierarchy saw their fasting idea was a total failure they abandoned the idea altogether and have since blessed the capers of New Year's.

At that time many countries, including England, were observing March 25 as New Year's. This was based on the erroneous conclusions of Dionysius, an abbot of the sixth century, who falsely reasoned that, since December 25 was supposed to mark the birth of Jesus, then the annunciation to Mary came on March 25, and hence it should be the beginning of the year. Pope Gregory XIII, in replacing the Julian calendar, in 1582, declared that January 1 was to be celebrated as New Year's. Catholic countries changed over immediately; Scotland, in 1600; Germany, Denmark and Sweden, about 1700; and England, in 1752. The calendar that came out of the French Revolution in November, 1793, with 12 months of 30 days each plus a few fete days at the end of each year, soon perished, in 1805.

The whole New Year's celebration with its high jinks and drunken revelry is not Christian, regardless of the day on which it occurs. Early Christians did not observe it, neither did Americans of Colonial days, nor do informed Christians of today.

Surplus

♦ If you are a young girl of 14 your chances in the United States of having a husband and a home of your own are only 75 percent. There are 12,000,000 single women over 14, but only 9,000,000 single men.

"THY WORD IS TRUTH"

JOHN 17:17

The Fighting High Priest

THIS High Priest was once "brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth", just as foretold at the propheey of Isaiah 53: 7. However, Jehovah God makes a Fighter out of Him, for He knows that the lamb-likeness of this One was no sign of weakness and fear, but was proof of the greatest courage and integrity even to the death under fire of the enemy. Therefore Jehovah has called that One to lead the most terrific fight in universal history, "the battle of that great day of God Almighty," which is due to break out in this atomic age. This fighting High Priest, once a perfect, innocent, inoffensive man on earth, died then like a lamb. He did so that He might enact the part of "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world". Because of this sacrifice of His human life forever, God raised the Lamb from death to a new life, life in the invisible spirit realm. God exalted Him to the highest place ever accorded to a creature, Jehovah's own right hand on the celestial throne. It is with this new life, and in this exalted position, that the Lamb of God will wage the final war that ends off all man-made wars and vindicates Jehovah's name and Godship.—John 1: 29.

In voluntarily offering himself for sacrifice as the "Lamb of God", Jesus Christ was foreshadowed long previously by the Jewish nation's first high priest, namely, Aaron, the brother of the prophet Moses. But as the royal One who fights

against all opposers of Jehovah's universal sovereignty and whips them at the battle of Armageddon, He was prefigured by that priest upon a royal throne, Melchizedek, the king of Salem. That He did not self-conceitedly assume to grab either of these offices for himself, but waited upon Jehovah's call and responded to it, God's own Word says: "Every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: . . . And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect [in obedience], he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec."—Hebrews 5: 1-10.

When the perfect man Jesus was baptized and the spirit of God descended upon Him at Jordan river, He was begotten of the spirit and God's voice from heaven announced that this spirit-begetten One was His Son: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." There, at His begetting by the spirit to

be a spiritual Son of God, the call applied to Jesus to be the great High Priest of Jehovah God and He was chosen for that office. There, too, the prophecy of God applied to Jesus: "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles." (Isaiah 42: 1) That such prophetic scripture applied to Jesus and was fulfilled in Him is shown by the apostle's quoting of it, at Matthew 12: 15-21, as fitting Jesus: "Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him," etc. His enemies challenged His being "the chosen of God". (Luke 23: 35) Yet He is the One whom Jehovah, the Builder of His capital organization Zion, has chosen and laid as the foundation member of it, saying: "Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded." Those who would be united with Him in the capital organization Zion must come to Jesus Christ: "Coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious." —1 Peter 2: 4, 6; Isaiah 28: 16.

God's choice proved to be right and best. Christ Jesus, under the most severe test of faith, devotion and integrity toward God, held faithful, dependable, and true to His commission or office from God. At the end of the test God saw good to raise Him out of death and to elevate the chosen One to the loftiest place in the universe, the capital place, next under the Most High God. Wherefore it is written as an eternal Record of Him: "In all things it believed him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; who was faithful to him

that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his [God's] house." (Hebrews 2: 17; 3: 1, 2) Also Revelation 1: 5 speaks of Him as "Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth." Revelation 19: 11, 16 pictures Him as the fighting High Priest, as riding in righteous warfare upon a white battle-worthy horse at Armageddon: "Behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." He is greater than the king-priest Melchizedek.

This Fighter, who is the Word of God and who represents Jehovah God, is pictured as crushing the enemy and as saying: "I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come." (Isaiah 63: 1-4) The people of this world are not with or in favor of Him in the fight for Jehovah's honor and rule. They are the ones that He treads down in execution of the vengeance of God against Satan's organization. However, there are others who are with Him or who are active on His side in the fight. These are the delivered ones whom He speaks of as "my redeemed". There are also a multitude of persons of goodwill who take a stand alongside these "redeemed" ones. These Jehovah's Fighter gathers to His right side for protection and for preservation with His redeemed. The redeemed are the ones spoken of at Revelation 17: 14 and who share with their High Priest in His victory over the wicked designs of the worldly rulers. This verse, in modern translation, reads: "They will make war upon the Lamb,

and the Lamb will triumph over them; for He is Lord of lords and King of kings. And those who accompany Him—called, as they are, and chosen, and faithful—shall share in the victory.”—Weymouth.

The victory which this fighting High Priest gains at Armageddon is due to the Almighty God, Jehovah, whom He serves as High Priest. In proof of this, Jehovah God speaks by His prophet at Psalm 110: 4-6 and says: “Jehovah hath sworn, and will not repent: Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. The Lord at thy right hand will strike through kings in the day of his wrath. He will judge among the nations, he will fill the places with dead bodies; he will strike through the head in many countries.” (*Am. Stan. Ver.*) Those who now reject the human sacrifice of this fighting High Priest for human sins will be slain at Armageddon; those who accept His sacrifice and who yield them-

selves to Him as the One that bought them shall live under His favor and protection.

Just a Celestial Speck

HOW small this little speck called “earth” is can be determined by weighing it. The estimate is that it weighs 6,550,000,000,000,000,000 tons. That makes it five and a half times as dense as water. And if the atmosphere above is included, then 7,000,000,000,000 tons more must be added.

Well, if the earth is that small, then how small are these little earthly creatures called “men”, who can only calculate, but cannot actually weigh this planet which is numbered among the smaller ones of the universe? No wonder the great Creator says, “Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he [Jehovah] taketh up the isles as a very little thing”!—Isaiah 40: 15.

PEACE—FROM WHAT SOURCE?

Today agencies claiming to bring forth peace are many. They all say “Peace! Peace!” But there is no peace. While the Bible foretells this failure of self-styled peacemakers, it also holds out the hope of the rule of the “Prince of Peace”, saying: “Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.”

Read the vivid and prophetic discussion revealing the false and the true peace agency as outlined in the 64-page booklet

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November

18-30

United Nations at Lake Success

◆ Three new members were formally admitted to the Assembly of the United Nations on November 20: Afghanistan, Iceland and Sweden. The total number is now 54. Applications for membership by Albania and Outer Mongolia were rejected, and those of Ireland, Portugal and Trans-Jordan were vetoed.

Much time was devoted to discussion of a troop inquiry plan, covering data on the forces which the occupying powers have in enemy countries, and the forces of any power in non-enemy lands. British agreement was conditioned on the setting up of a United Nations Inspection Body, to confirm the information. Russia's representative at first barred this plan. He also wanted data on bomb and rocket weapons included in the survey. This proposal was defeated. Reports on the strength of armies at home were included after further discussion. The date for the reports to be made was set for January 1, 1947.

On the matter of food distributions to needy nations the United States proposed for 1947 the arrangement by which such provisions would be made by agreement between the supplying nation and the receiving nation. This was opposed by other representatives, but the Netherlands delegate endorsed the proposal fully. No decision was reached.

Much of the time of the United Nations assembly was spent in making charges and counter-charges. Denunciations and attacks were not wanting. If newspaper reports reflect the actual temper of the gathering the name United Nations is a misnomer.

Big Four in New York

◆ The council of foreign ministers (Big Four) which is meeting in New York appeared toward the end of November to be getting somewhere, having arrived at an agreement that the governor of the Trieste territory should have wide powers, including control of the police and legislation. He is to be appointed by the Security Council of the United Nations. As soon as this little matter was settled the Big Four started to haggle about the withdrawal of the British and American troops. Russia said, 90 days after the treaty goes into effect; the U. S. minister proposed the evacuation begin 45 days after the governor of the territory decided it was safe to withdraw them.

At length the Russian and United States ministers, Molotov and Byrnes, decided on trying private get-togethers, apart from the other members of the Big Four. These "cloakroom" conferences resulted in an agreement that troops would be evacuated when the governor decides he can maintain order without them.

An interim regime is to administer the territory and will be set up by the governor, selecting a provisional council from among local inhabitants. Elections for a permanent government will be held four months after the governor takes over.

The Big Four also decided upon the freedom of navigation on the Danube.

UNESCO

◆ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held its first plenary session at Paris on November 20. Its executive secretary, Dr. Julian Huxley, addressing the delegates, told them that Russia had declined to participate. He said he thought a "common philosophy" might be formed between the beliefs of the Marxist Soviet Union and the ideals of capitalistic powers. Some of the speakers thought the conference would not attain important results without Russian co-operation, but the United States delegation felt much could be accomplished even without Russia, whose absence was, however, regretted. Projects before the conference included the revision of textbooks with a view to reducing international friction, also a survey of "barriers to the dissemination of information across national frontiers with a view to later action". The second day Yugoslavia's official observer, V. Ribnikar, rejected the idea that a world-wide philosophy could be formed that would reconcile Russian and Western ideas. New Zealand's representative attacked "the story of the Inquisition" which he said had engendered so much injustice, fear and hatred in the minds of children. He urged greater stress on education in the organization's budget (fixed at \$7,565,000). The program for press, radio and films sought to group all three instrumentalities together to improve communications, particularly in countries with poorly developed information services.

Nations Agree on Trade

◆ Representatives of seventeen nations assembled in London as the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Trade and Employment, ended work on the details of a world trade charter on November 23, agreeing on all major points. The charter is to establish rules governing international trade, dealing with admission to the organization, prevention of unemployment, economic development of backward areas, and numerous other important trade regulations.

House of Commons Notes

◆ Support of Foreign Secretary Bevin's leadership of Great Britain's foreign policy was in the balance when efforts were made to pass a critical amendment in the House of Commons (November 18). It was withdrawn, however, in a vote of 353-0 defeating the motion. A large number of Laborites, some of whom had moved the amendment, refrained from voting. An amendment opposing peacetime conscription was defeated by a vote of 320 to 53 with many abstentions. The total vote for the government in both of these matters was considered disappointing, in view of the abstentions. On the same day it was announced that Britain will take over the mines on January 1, 1947, and terms on which the railway and canal companies will be nationalized were announced also.

Hindu-Moslem-British Triangle

◆ The Moslems and Hindus of India are suspicious of each other, and both are suspicious of Great Britain. The results can be imagined, but only dimly. They are surely not conducive to peace. Almost continual upbeavals mark the scene in India. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, leader of the (Hindu) Congress party, charges Britain with forming a "mental alliance" with the Moslem League. The leader of the Moslem League, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, on the other hand, charg-

es Britain's viceroy, Viscount Wavell, with playing into the hands of the Indian Congress. Nehru said the Moslem League was pursuing its aim of enlisting British support and establishing itself as a "King's party" in the interim government. He charged Viscount Wavell with failing to carry on the government in the spirit in which it was begun. The British government at London, in desperation, called the viceroy to London, and he was to bring with him two representatives each of the Hindu Congress and the Moslem League, and one Sikh to represent a minority group.

Riots in Egypt

◆ On the eve of the debate in the Chamber of Deputies on terms of a new treaty of alliance with Britain, riots flared to Cairo. The extreme nationalists are violently against such a treaty. In the rioting, which broke out November 25, streetcars were overturned and bombs thrown. The rioters struck in various parts of the city simultaneously, indicating a plan that would prevent police from dealing effectively with any of them. Explosive missiles left at the headquarters of the weekly Akhbar el Yoj were accompanied with a note which read: "This is the first gift for your support of the treaty, which will be followed by another to send you to heaven." The riots broke out in the evening, at the close of a Moslem holiday commemorating Mohammed's flight to Medina when Mohammedanism was developing, some 1340 years ago.

No Peace in Palestine

◆ It is becoming almost superfluous to write that violence is flaring in Jerusalem. It did so again on November 30, when road mines were detonated at a police station near the Damascus gate. Numerous hand grenades were thrown at the city wall. Troops battled fleeing terrorists with heavy machine-gun and rifle fire. The disturbance con-

tinued for two hours and a half. Leaflets distributed in Tel Aviv by the Irgun Zvai underground said, "We have passed sentence of death on all those authorities who are responsible for the deportation of 4,000 Jews from Palestine." The deportation took place November 26, but consisted of unauthorized Jewish immigrants. They were transshipped to Cyprus in spite of violent resistance.

Chinese Constitution

◆ The picture of Sun Yat-sen, father of the Chinese Republic, decorated the platform from which Chiang Kai-shek on November 28 presented the National Assembly of China with the draft of a new and permanent constitution. While recommending the adoption of the draft, Chiang said that Dr. Sun's principles of government were superior, but the Chinese had not gained sufficient political experience to follow it; hence the departures which the new document made from the five-power arrangement set forth by Dr. Sun. Chiang said: "Now that the Assembly has taken over, I have no more political ambition." He had carried the responsibility of China's government for twenty years and had arrived at the age of 60. While the National Assembly met in Nanking strong Chinese Communist forces continued fighting government troops in northern China.

Dutch-Indonesia Pact Opposed

◆ Right-wing Catholic leaders inside and outside of the Netherlands Cabinet have expressed opposition to the Dutch-Indonesian pact for Indonesian freedom in union with the Netherlands monarchy. There is also opposition in some other quarters, but the outright rejection of the pact is unlikely. The draft agreement for the formation of the United States of Indonesia was presented to the Cabinet on November 28. After due consideration by the Cabinet the case goes to the States General (Parliament).

Argentina Conscription

◆ Argentina is considering peace-time military conscription of all "men and women from 12 to 50". The physically unfit, those holding essential government positions and those supporting dependents are to be exempted. Priests and those in holy orders of any religion are also exempt. The provision for the conscription was slipped into the National Aeronautical Organization Bill.

Austria Recognizes Pope

◆ Austria on November 30 sent its first ambassador to the pope since the Anschluss with Germany, at which time it lost representation at the Vatican. The pope now hailed the Austrian tie with glee, because, he said, "Austria is always very important from a European standpoint." Austria is a sort of strategic gateway between East and West on the Continent. The pope always takes note of such considerations. He mentioned "an infamous doctrine which triumphed through treachery and violence which in its theoretical and practical terrorism could not recognize the inalienable rights of the church". He was supposedly referring to Nazism and its domination of Austria, but failed to mention that it was the papal knight von Papen who betrayed Austria into Hitler's hands, representing the Anschluss as desired by the Vatican. As a papal knight he doubtless was in position to know.

Communism in Europe

◆ Following protests by the United States and Great Britain as to the undemocratic methods followed in its election arrangements, Rumania's election returns at the latter part of November indicated that the Communist bloc (in six-party coalition) had won by some 70 percent.

In Poland a bloody and fratricidal conflict between the Communist-dominated government and the underground was taking many lives of both government agents and its civilian support-

ers. There are three groups in the underground, the WIN, NSZ and UPA, standing respectively for "Liberty and Independence", "National Armed Forces" and "Ukrainian Partisans' Army". The main aim is to overthrow the present regime. The NSZ is also anti-Semitic. Its members halt travelers with the questions, "Are you a Communist?" and "Are you a Jew?" An affirmative answer means death. The government is hoping that cold and hunger will drive the underground out of the forests and contribute toward its defeat this winter.

In France the Communists again topped the election lists, this time in the vote to pick electors. There were, however, many voters who abstained.

The Yugoslavs have sovietized land in Istria, including areas nominally belonging to Italy. Lands together with buildings and tools are being divided among the peasants.

In Greece the Communists were reported to be holding west Macedonia, with the exception of the larger towns, where there were Greek military forces. Yugoslavia has informed the Greek minister at Belgrade that she is strengthening her forces along the Greek frontier, due to the flight of large numbers of Greeks into Yugoslavia to escape terrorism.

The Soft Coal Situation

◆ Mid-November saw the United States confronted with the prospect of a soft coal strike. Railroads had to cut their coal-burning train schedules 25 percent. Country-wide dim-out orders were issued.

An order restraining John L. Lewis, head of the UMW, from breaking the contract was issued. Lewis ignored it. November 21 the strike went into full effect. An exodus of 400,000 miners from their jobs took place. John L. Lewis was cited for contempt of a Federal Court order. Both the AFL and the CIO condemned the government's action in the

matter. The strike went on. Other industries were affected and unemployment spread. At the end of November the number of idle including the miners had increased to half a million.

Inquiry on Bilbo

◆ The Senate Campaign Investigating Committee voted on November 16 to find out whether Theodore G. Bilbo of Mississippi, violent anti-Negro Democrat, was fit to serve as senator. Complaints which were the basis of the action charged that Bilbo had "advocated, counseled, inspired, encouraged, incited, aided and abetted" whites to commit acts of violence and intimidation against Negro voters. Bilbo won renomination by a bare majority.

Heavenly Spectacle

◆ New Yorkers and other U.S. citizens, concerned with the problems of earth, took little notice of a heavenly spectacle, when more than half the sun (58 percent) was obscured by the moon's disk on November 23. The phenomenon took place in the middle of the day, at 12:20 p.m. In Maine the eclipse was 64 percent in extent. The partial eclipse was the fourth and last visible in the United States during 1946.

Production of Isotopes

◆ Radioactive isotopes are being produced on a large scale at Oak Ridge to be distributed to laboratories and hospitals for use in the tracing of causes of disease. The announcement was made on November 29, and it was stated that since sales began, four months previously, 160 orders have been filled. Isotopes are different forms of an element outwardly identical.

The most "popular" of the isotopes is Carbon 14, which is used to "tag" molecules with a view to determining the mysteries of photosynthesis, metabolism, rubber chemistry and cancer.

Iodine 131 is the second most "popular" isotope. It is used experimentally for the cure of hyperthyroidism.

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