

AWAKE!

Big Business Milks the ECA

How greed and waste by business and government plague the economic health of Americans

Dazzling Display of Aurora Borealis

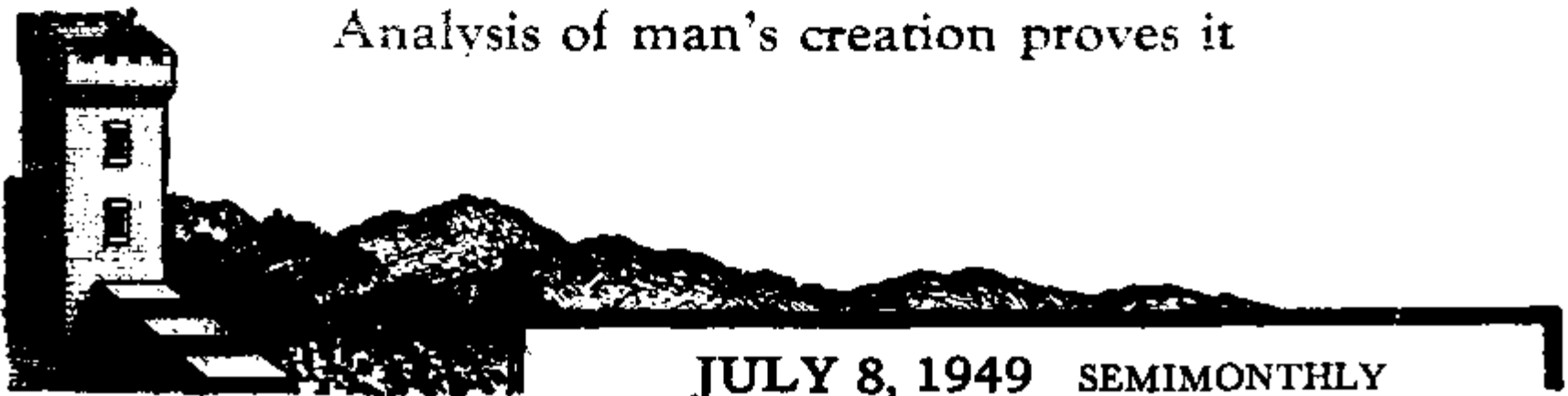
Do sunspots and earthstorms join forces to stage the awe-inspiring lights of "northern dawn"?

Hard-Shells of Turtledom

Unfostered by modern hustle, they live on for centuries

The Human Soul Destructible

Analysis of man's creation proves it



JULY 8, 1949 SEMIMONTHLY

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AWAKE!

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

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Number 18

Big Business Milks the ECA



The recent aluminum "scandal" focused public attention on the Economic Co-operative Administration. Charges reverberated around the world that certain ECA beneficiaries, England, Belgium and Holland, received free aluminum under ECA, then sold it back to American purchasers at more than 30c a pound. These charges were hotly denied with considerable cause, and the exact status of the case, left for later discussion herein, remains in doubt. On the other hand, the revealed hookup between large industrialists and ECA lending deserves more than casual scanning.

The ECA, European Recovery Program (ERP), and the Marshall Plan, all refer to the same thing. The ERP, originally called the Marshall Plan, was first proposed by former Secretary of State George C. Marshall, June, 1947. Later approved by Congress, and dubbed the ERP, it provided funds, foods, etc., for the sixteen Western European States and the three Western Zones of Germany. The ECA is the agency created by a Congress which dotes on the multiplication of alphabetical agencies, to direct and control the operations of the ERP. ECA and ERP designate head and body of the same organization, and Marshall Plan is its "baby name".

Officially, according to Truman, its purpose is "to further world recovery". Others charge that ERP, etc., is "now tied to military measures"; has been

forced "to absorb the military commitments which the United States government, under the Truman Doctrine, already had made in Greece and Turkey; and "military chiefs are inclined to regard ERP as part of their own strategy for rearming the western world". All the painstaking analysis of motives is entirely beyond the concern of Big Business. *For the profiteers the ECA-ERP-Marshall Plan acts as a productive cow for commercial milking.*

For a little over a year the disbursements of ECA amounted to about five billion dollars, and requested for the fifteen-month period to end June 30, 1950, is \$5,430,000,000. Here was a rich plum that stirred many avaricious minds with longing! ECA allotments began to be fiercely scrambled for. After about fifteen months of operation the record discloses the intimate nature of the tie that binds politician and profit seeker. The big boys got the contracts and at a big price instead of the minimum cost which is usually urged as a reason for accepting the bids of major concerns. Monopolistic food processors, aluminum, steel, oil, cotton and shipping corporations have been preferred both in price and in allotment.

Racketeers in Oil

A brief glance at the oil contracts granted the greasy-handed Middle Eastern Oil companies furnishes a good case in point. The oil industry generally

earned an unsavory reputation during the "hot phase" of World War II by selling to the Democratic Powers and the Axis Powers (via "neutral Spain") fairly indiscriminately. By the same token that blood is thicker than water so is oil much thicker and more precious to the international oil industry than the crimson stream of suffering humanity, nationality disregarded. As related in a previous *Awake!* article more oil has been found by the mere drilling of 300 wells in Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia and territory adjacent to the Arabian peninsula than that said to lie beneath "America's 500,000 dribbling wells". The chief squatters on these foreign oil rights are British and American-owned companies, with smaller holdings by Royal Dutch Shell, and France.

These companies hold a strategic position for sale of oil to Europe. Their dealings with the navy during the war provoked Senator Brewster to expostulate on the "amazing picture of corporate greed" disclosed. Another Congressional inquirer has recently wired the president of Standard Oil requesting information on the astonishing profit now *charged for oil bought for needy nations* under ERP. The facts reveal that production of oil by the participating firms costs from 10 to 25 cents a barrel, and scarcely comes to 50c a barrel including payment for royalties, etc. *The price charged ERP is \$2.65 a barrel!* One authority notes that Middle Eastern oil could be sold in New York very profitably at \$2.50, to compete with Texas oil delivered today at the same port for \$3.05. The president of Standard Oil is still trying to explain just how, then, \$2.65 a barrel for delivery in the Mediterranean represents a competitive price.

Of course, competition is as non-existent among the Middle Eastern concessioners as in a small orderly family when dividing a large pie. There is so much to divide nobody could complain, especially since complaint might cause

undesirable publicity. That is, nobody except the American taxpayer, because "this billion-dollar take will come out of the pockets of the American taxpayer".

Like a crocodile hidden beneath the waters of visible operation, its real form never emerges unless forced to the surface by threat of danger or menacing attack. Only when the flow of profits is dammed or cut off, the corrupt stream recedes enough to reveal the monster—flashing, striking, snapping giant jaws to protect and control its cherished river of commerce.—See Ezekiel 29: 1-5.

Big Business in its national-boundary-jumping operations is beastly, heartless, ultraselfish, remorselessly cruel. Oil is only one instance. Other interests are also sucking at ERP's expansive udders. American firms have been collecting 50-percent greater charges for delivering ERP donations than the rates of foreign shippers. When Director Paul Hoffman attempted to relieve ERP of this burden the Maritime Commission and the National Maritime Union protested to Truman on the theory that American shipping should be given the preference. Since this would amount to a government subsidy (monetary aid) to an industry already rich it raises two related questions: Why should a shipping subsidy be charged to ERP? and why should the American taxpayer be charged 50 percent additional for delivering a gift?

Even anticipating that ERP will shortly be made available to Spain, the National City Bank recently loaned Franco \$25,000,000 with tacit approval of the State Department. Thus for the third time that Franco's despotism has been threatened Big American Business (and Religion) has stepped in to protect the most outrageous Fascist government extant.

Greed, Unltd.

Whenever big sums of money, such as the five billion spent by ERP, and the other five billion allocated, are involved,

Big Business and its whole litter come squealing and jostling for the handout. Only in the pigpen are similar scenes enacted. The highly advertised motive of humanitarian interest said to prompt ERP generosity (although a variety of other reasons such as blocking Russian aggression are concurrently advanced) has as little meaning for the conscienceless cartels as the farmer's incentive for filling the swill trough has to the hogs. The main thought in both cases is, Get all we can. Admittedly though, there are limitations even to this form of comparison: the hog's belly has a large but measurable capacity, but the lust for gold is unlimited. And while commercial greed dwarfs the swine's in magnitude, commercial conduct's counterpart is nowhere found in the animal kingdom. For business not only fills its insatiable belly but provokes bloody wars to prevent others from enjoying the surplus. To what beast can Big Business be likened?

In this discussion legitimate firms operating for a reasonable profit are entirely excluded from censure. But rather it is the corporations whose holdings are so vast as to make national allegiance impractical, who operate on the Seven Seas, who are justifiably under fire. Among these are the arms and munition companies that recently counted their customers (and stockholders also) among both Axis and Democratic countries, who impartially sold to "friend" or "foe". To such organizations profit is the practical consideration, principle is scorned as an obstacle only for the "weak sentimentalists". To them the aspect of profits is not changed by their national origin nor their means of acquisition. "Blood money" is untainted for the insensibly selfish, tells no incriminating tales, talks with no foreign accent! Familiar then becomes the ring of Congressman Walter C. Ploeser's charge: "A few giant companies are getting most of ECA's exports and profits, particularly in cotton and other farm products, and

small business is being left out in the cold."

Some of the outcry comes from abroad. One dispatch from Vienna captioned "Profiteering by U. S. Companies in Europe Through Loophole in ERP Pact Reported." Deploing the hurt caused to the "reputations of the United States and ERP in this part of Europe", the correspondent describes the method of exploitation:

The trick used by these American firms is to buy up in an ERP member country all or a part of the available supply of some scarce commodity, upon which another ERP member is dependent for industrial purposes. The country that is the victim of this technique then learns it can only get the essential material by paying free dollars, usually out of very restricted reserves. . . . A favorite field for this practice, it is reported, is certain scarce chemicals and raw materials.

Aluminum "Scandal" Confusing

Could one of these possibly be aluminum? At last report on the "aluminum scandal" the source of some of the shipments to the U. S. marked "Britain" were "untraceable". "On the Continent the situation is vastly more complicated. Countries doing an enormous warehouse trade like Belgium and Switzerland do not and in the nature of the case cannot state with any confidence what is the ultimate destination of any of their exports. This would be equally true of re-exports of materials supplied by ECA." (New York Times, December 26, 1948) When it comes to international business, the question always is, Just who owns what? One authority charges that ERP participators have set up "New York corporation dummies" to purchase their products and "force their European trade partners to buy with dollars". Perhaps it would be well to restate the charge concerning aluminum, etc.:

The second scandal is the purchase of aluminum and lead by three European countries, Britain, Belgium and Holland, using ECA

money, that is, the money of the American taxpayer, and reselling the stuff to American manufacturers at a profit. . . . These three countries bought aluminum in Canada at 16 cents a pound—using ECA money which they got for nothing from the American taxpayer for the reconstruction of their countries. They sold it as scrap at from 27 to 30 cents a pound in the United States! ECA also financed lead purchases for Holland from Mexico and Peru, and for Belgium from Canada and Newfoundland. Half of these purchases found their way to the United States. . . . ECA spent \$25,015,000 of the American taxpayers' money on the aluminum deal alone. [New York *Daily Mirror*, December 16, 1948]. The aluminum mystery seems to cast the U.S. in the familiar role of Uncle Sam. [New York *Daily News*, January 7, 1949]

In the general denials that followed David Bruce's charges that the three countries had received 99,043 tons of the two metals free through ECA and had sold back 21,700 tons to the U.S., the scandal became "curiouser and curiouser", according to the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. Now the story agreed upon is that customs reports show unquestionably that the United States is giving away aluminum and buying some of it back; but nobody knows for sure where it comes from. Britain was exonerated because aluminum shipped by British dealers was in reality routed from Switzerland by way of Rotterdam. Making the picture more confusing, the report stated that "the shipments had not originated even in Switzerland but were simply in transit through that country 'from still another country or countries'." A person of suspicious mind might wonder why—since nobody can say exactly what route was followed by the touring aluminum—the traveling metal might not have started in the United States and returned to the United States. Could not all the reroute agencies have made a nice profit and the American taxpayer as usual paid the bill?

ECA and War

Economic issues play a big part in international disputes. Determining the exact purpose of ERP-ECA-Marshall Plan is about as difficult as deciding who bought aluminum from whom. The only parties sucking contentedly are Big Business. Abroad there are complaints from Britain and Switzerland (this prosperous country is not an ECA beneficiary) that America is using the ECA to accomplish results too quickly, or as an economic club. In France, Guillaume de Tarde, vice-president of the French National Railroads, remarks, "Out of a thousand ordinary Frenchmen, perhaps one half of one Frenchman knows what ERP really means." In an article written last April dealing with "ERP and War?" Freda Kirchwey, writing for the *Nation* of April 10, 1948, observed:

American foreign policy is not departmentalized: it is one immense mish-mash, in which categories run together and lose shape and meaning. . . . The degree to which politics and military plans today dominate economic aid is amply illustrated by the inclusion in the final ERP bill of the military appropriations for Greece and China. . . . Guns, goods, dollars—all are lumped together, along with the military and political purposes they represent.

A year later the military motive behind ERP was emphasized by the signing of the Atlantic Pact by eleven Western powers, several of which were ERP beneficiaries.

Nobody can say for a certainty just what ERP will lead to. British writer Barbara Ward thinks America must extend aid beyond the 1952 period set for termination of ECA. De Gaulle skeptically belittles ERP: "France has lived hundreds of years without the plan and can do so still." France has not, however, refused the free tractors, and other products sent by America. Where it will all lead is questioned by Henry Hazlitt in his column "Business Tides": "From the beginning the basic aims of the Mar-

shall Plan have been vague and confused. If anyone pointed to the economic misconceptions behind it he was told that its aims were primarily political. If he called attention to its political inadequacies he was told that the plan was primarily economic. Trying to pin down its purposes has been like trying to nail a custard pie to the wall."—*Newsweek*, February 28, 1949.

Economic Enslavement in the Offing?

"There can be no doubt that Moscow for the last three years has been cherishing a hope of our coming economic collapse." (Editorial in the *San Diego Union*, February 14, 1949) In December the report of the advisory Committee to the (Hoover) Commission on the Reorganization of the Executive Branch of the Government, sometimes called the Eberstadt Committee, described the United States as a "huge, sprawling, wasteful land". The commission pointed out: "It [government] has accumulated excessive stocks of equipment and goods valued at more than \$2,500,000,000." Practically every agency has excessive stocks of supplies. The commission estimated that half of the several million purchase orders issued by the government each year are for \$10 or less, and said: "Since the cost of processing a purchase transaction is greatly in excess of \$10, the overhead cost is more than the cost of the goods. . . . Funds remaining near the end of a fiscal year are frequently expended for supplies to avoid returning the money to the treasury."

Some of the duplication, overlapping and general confusion would be laughable except that the losing taxpayer pays too much for the jokes. For example, the government "misplaced" 9,000 tanks, an item of more than two billion dollars! Henry J. Taylor, in his article in *Reader's Digest* (February) "Billions for Defense—How Much for Waste?" adds another mystery:

The question "What became of the missing

tanks?" remains unanswered. But this is only part of the larger question, "What became of the equipment for 71 divisions?" At the war's end the army had 89 fully equipped divisions and enormous quantities of armaments in reserve at home and in world-wide pipe lines. Today the army says it has equipment for only 18. The disappearance involves equipment and many complicated war machines used in outfitting 71 divisions. The commission was baffled by this overall picture, especially so because "the military were put on notice six months after the end of the war as to the seriousness of the situation".

In the budget the army asked for "\$100,000 per tank" for improving 102 more such tanks than the army possessed. Money requested for 910 family houses in Alaska figured out at \$58,350 per house; and 7,880 family houses for domestic posts at \$18,600 each. For howitzers the budget called for 39 million dollars. "But the front '3' had drifted in—and stayed there—by clerical error. Thirty million unneeded dollars had been defended to the last ditch by the budgeteers," said Mr. Taylor. Funds for enough "tropical worsted uniforms" were requested for "all the enlisted men in the army and then some. At the same time there was 213 million dollars for stockpiling other clothing and personal equipment." The price for the requested 838,000 tropical worsted uniforms was \$129 each. What is doubtless one of the most tactfully expressed criticisms ever issued was the commission's comment: "It is difficult to escape the conclusion that padding has been a fairly general practice."

In all this Big Business profits. If the government loses or dissipates equipment, manufacturers replace it for prices greater than an individual, with none of the advantages of large buying power, would pay. Who stands to profit more than monopolistic business enterprises?

What, then, is the economic outlook for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1949? In his State of the Union speech of Jan-

uary 5 Truman gave the national debt figure as \$252 billion. This figures the per capita indebtedness at something over \$1,700. A family of four then is accountable, besides its personal debts, for \$6,200. Without making a dent in this enormous burden, "all federal, state and municipal tax collections in 1947 added up to a staggering sum of 49.6 billions, or almost 25 percent of the national income. This was some 3.5 billions less than the record 1945 tax total. Nevertheless it is equal to \$344.46 for each of the 144 million residents of this country." (*Business Week*, November 6, 1948) From the brief survey above it is evident that a large part of this painful load of taxation is funneled into the insatiable maw of commerce.

Depression Ahead?

Despite slackening up in many lines of business the Truman regime remains in unholy wedlock to the Roosevelt doctrine of "spending your way to prosperity". In the year starting July 1 government will spend \$15,909,116,800 to maintain the armed forces. Much of this sum will go for government housing, automobile, heavy industry, food processors, clothing, oil, aircraft, and ship purchases. Part of the reason for the partially optimistic, or at least undisturbed, outlook for business is that the cold war with Russia means more business activity. A lower but prosperous level is in sight. In his report Truman promised something for everybody: free medical care, more pay for the jobless, bigger pensions, more education, electric power for the farmer and stabilization of prices, better housing at low rents, old age pensions for man and wife to go as high as \$37.50 a week; \$45 for the disabled. Truman is having difficulty with some of this program, but the outcome is still unsettled.

In general the outlook indicates that a "dip" not a "depression" is in sight. Consumer resistance against high prices

forces some items down, but a "big buying pool" remains for tapping. But, despite the fact that government spending and unsatisfied public wants probably preclude the prospect of any considerable depression for the coming months, yet the average man has reason to reflect on the old Chinese proverb: "Getting money is like digging with a needle; spending it is like water soaking into sand." Money is the weapon used by the god of Mammon. Satan makes it difficult of attainment except by those few chosen by his minions who will use it for ultraselfish purposes. Because of waste, monopolies, and huge tax burdens the average man can enjoy less and less of money's fruits, the more abundant life.

Realizing they have been thwarted and cheated, men are lured by such political appeal as that of Truman's, that, in the role of common man himself, he stands in the gap defending the people from "those special interests who are making excessive profits out of present shortages". Nonetheless, Truman has been a party to the government spree of spending and he himself has an income greater than any private citizen could enjoy. With the new salary of \$100,000, with \$50,000 additional tax-free for expenses, plus a yacht, home and other privileges, *U. S. News* estimates that for such luxuries an ordinary citizen would require an income of \$3,500,000 per year!

Let none then be lured into thinking that help from oppressive commerce comes from politics; much less from religion. A news dispatch, states: "The Vatican recently entrusted the House of Morgan with management of the Pope's financial interests in Africa and India. . . . In the Moslem world of 250 million persons strong it is held that religion—the Koran and Koranic Law—is the basis for politics." The eyes of the people should be opened from examining the misdeeds of religion, politics and commerce, and they should seek Jehovah's kingdom as their true hope.

THE CHAVANTE

A Vessel of Hate Forged by the White Man



BECAUSE of their desire to be let alone and to live alone the white man has come to call them "gentil Chavantes".

Only in olden times in the middle of the eighteenth century did he submit to any contact at all with civilization. The chiefs of the Chavantes submitted themselves to the crown of Portugal, of which Brazil was then a colony. The treaty was celebrated between them and the governor of the province of Goyaz, Tristão da Cunha. One day the governor invited the newly-pacified Indians for a visit to the capital of the province. He thought that probably a handful of them at the most would come, but he was stricken with panic when he saw hundreds and hundreds of Indians arrive. This brought a very new problem to the governor, although in that epoch one of the worst headaches of the jungle was that of food provision.

He was unable to play host to all of his visitors. Through desire for food and entirely without the notion of robbing, the Chavantes passed quietly through the city taking to eat anything and everything upon which their eyes fell. This act, simple and entirely justifiable in their sight, became one of the worst ransackings of a city that Brazil had ever known. The situation was unbearable, but the Indians, knowing that they were invited, had no intention of leaving. The governor was unable to convince them of the gravity of matters.

Hate Is Born

Force was resorted to. Regular troops were hurriedly set against the surprised Indians and many were slaughtered.

Hence till now that inexplicable and hateful attitude of the white man has never been understood by the Chavante. From then until now the white man was marked as a traitor in the memory of the Indian. Attack after attack followed by the soldiers and thousands of Indians were conquered and subjected to the white man. Scores of these died of an epidemic of measles; while the residue fled to the woods and thus escaped. What a beautiful recollection it was that the thousands who escaped carried with them! It was a campfire story of massacre to be told over and over again. It passed from generation to generation through the tribe's traditional storytellers, who, perhaps after the witch doctors, are the men most respected in the tribes. At any rate, since 1765 this Indian tribe deep in the heart of Brazil in the states of Matto Grosso and Goyaz had systematically refused to receive any kind of visit from the white man. That is, until recently.

The hostile attitude toward the few white men that chance to wander through his forest home does not leave any doubt as to his appraisal of the pale face. But the Chavante has isolated himself not only from the white man but also from the conquered and civilized Indian who at one time was of his own nation. Well illustrating is the clash and massacre of the Carajás by the Chavantes that occurred in 1930. No opportunity to attack and kill any and all intruders is overlooked by him.

Many call the Chavante lazy, probably because he leads a nomad life. He wanders about in the thickets hunting and fishing, but always on land. Strangely he sees no good use for the river. Instead of a means of communication and help he looks upon it merely as an obstacle

separating two portions of firm land on which he can and is accustomed to walk. He limits his navigation to a log, which, after perfecting the crossing, he abandons without any thought of returning to use it again.

Unlike the Incas and North American Indians, the Chavante remains in a very primitive mental state. Confronted with a new problem he halts with indecision as if it presented something that to him is overcomplex and impossible of solution. But one thing that he is not in doubt about is his distrust of the colored man, the white and the civilized Indian.

A Celebration Dance

Only with such an outlook on others can his action against Pimentel Barboza be explained. In September of 1941 with two timid and frightened interpreters from the Cherente tribe, cousins to the Chavantes, Barboza, inspector of the Service of Indian Protection, and his expedition set out into the thick forest to meet with them in an exchange of gifts and with the desire to bring about peaceful relations between them and the outside world. Before entering Indian territory the expedition members chanted the slogan of General Rondon of the Service of Indian Protection, "Die if necessary, but never kill." Thereupon Barboza disarmed all his men and proceeded with the journey. Finally the grasslands of Roncador rose visible in the setting sun. There was the heart of the Chavante nation. Here Barboza chose a woods as shelter and set up camp, dangerously close to the Indians.

Barboza had not the slightest doubt of the success of his expedition, for he thought the Chavante to be no different from other tribes. He promptly sent out from there three scouts, a white man and two Cherentes, to locate the various villages of the Indians. The three rode horseback, the whole day, through territory immediately surrounding the camp. At nightfall their eyes fell on a village

low in the foothills. From their elevation they could see fires in among the straw and branch community houses. They realized that they were viewing one of the most impressive celebrations that their eyes had ever seen among Indians.

There were men and women mixed in one grand and frantic dance that seemed to be a manifestation of collective insanity rather than a celebration or perhaps some kind of commemoration. The drums pounded with deafening thud. The celebration filled the whole night through and the ground shook beneath the tremendous procession of barbarous men with war instruments. Arrived early dawn and there lay the dancers completely exhausted around dying campfires. In fear of being seen the three scouts abandoned the sight with the coming of dawn to complete their mission in search of other villages.

Not one mile was traveled before one of the superstitious guides halted motionless in a trance of terror. "The black bird flew over my head," he cried. "At this hour Captain Barboza and his companions are no longer alive. We must return." Retracing their steps to the camp of their companions the Indian's fear was confirmed. There lay the bodies of all the party horribly mutilated. Smashed radio and motor equipment lay scattered round about. There lay the clubs and other implements customarily used and left by the Indians in massacre. There remained alive not one soul. The horses were slaughtered and mutilated, for the Chavante knows no other means of transportation than by foot. The utility of the horse would never enter into his mind. Everything round about indicated to the three scout survivors the presence of the Chavantes.

The inspiration for the celebration of the night before, of course, was clear in their horrified minds now, and with the memory of that massacre celebration in the tribe's own camp, the three had but one worry, to cross the river and save

their lives. According to the Salesian priests of that region, the Chavantes have for thirty years remained alert and prepared for that and any opportunity to repel the white man from their dominions.

Successful Meeting

Recently the successor of the unfortunate Pimental Barboza, Francisco Meirelles, succeeded in coaxing them first by leaving presents and making a discreet withdrawal, then finally succeeded in making a closer contact with them face to face and exchanging knives for arrows. But where was the Cherente interpreter? Oh, this time he had taken sick all of a sudden and failed to join the party, which was almost a fatality, because the party had only 80 knives. The Indians kept appearing until there were about 400 of them, and no more knives! Meirelles made a noble attempt to communicate with them by gestures that he would go and get knives for the rest of them and return. This satisfied the chief and those who received knives, but it was evident from their gesticulations that there was resentment on the part of the others who in their disappointment at being left out worked themselves up into a frenzy of attack. The party of "pacifiers" made a quick getaway on horseback, outdistancing their pursuers who were afoot. No fatalities, only one wounded mount.

The second expedition was planned with great care, checking up on the mistakes of the former failures and taking full advantage of the lessons learned. The first attempt succeeded in leaving presents at the Pimental Barboza camp, as the SPI camp was now called in memory of the martyred inspector. These the Indians furtively took in the absence of the members of the expedition who intentionally got out of sight. With the six months rainy season coming on, the party withdrew to prepare a return effort.

This time the expeditioners, headed

by Francisco Meirelles of the SPI, in two launches descended the river formerly known as Meek river but renamed River of the Dead after a terrible clash in the year 1770 on its banks between a party of explorers in search of gold and the government agents also in search of gold in the form of taxes for the Portuguese crown. Both sides lost heavily, with only one among the explorers escaping alive. The river ran with blood and the gruesome bodies of the dead were carried downstream by the current, and the river from that time on has been known as the River of the Dead.

At long last, a thrill ever so chilling. The Indians came out! Out of hiding and into personal contact with the expedition, who exchanged knives and trinkets with them for arrows. The expedition succeeded in taking some pictures although the machines terrified the Indians. Conversation was impossible, for, as always, the interpreter who could speak a kind of Chavante dialect failed them, becoming suddenly speechless in the presence of the Chavantes. He found his tongue only after the encounter had ended when the presents were all given out and the expedition had returned to camp. This latest meeting was made in September, 1946.

The Chavante "Historian"

Will these Chavante Indians never forget and forgive the inhospitality and bloodshed of so many years gone by? Forget, no. Their tribal history is kept alive and handed down from one generation to the youth of the next generation by the official tribal storyteller. As the young Indians reach the age when other youngsters would be entering primary school, they gather around him and are taught who their ancestors were, what they did, how they conquered and how they suffered. These stories are repeated faithfully, without variation. One or more youngsters with the best memory are selected to train for the place of

storyteller upon the death of the present one. As they reach the age when they can use a bow and arrow or learn the art of war, these remain in the camp while the others go out, attending their course in history, hearing and repeating the tales which go to make up the national patrimony of the tribe.

Generations back, members of the Chavante tribes would, in the dead of night, visit their relatives of the subjugated Cherentes in their villages, returning home at dawn, unwilling to remain among those who had made friends with their inhospitable hosts of years gone by, who had repaid their visit with wholesale murder. As these older ones died, the friendship ceased and the Chavantes gradually came to despise and fear the Cherentes as much as they did white men.

When Hate Will Die

But if the storytellers still faithfully inculcate in the youth of the tribe hatred and distrust of the white and the subjugated Indians as well, what accounts for his changed, more conciliatory attitude as shown in his more friendly contact by the whites at the present time? There are two factors that enter into this apparent change of attitude. One is his physical situation, hemmed in by the Rocardor Sierra on the north, civilization on the west, the pacified Tapirapés on the island of Bananal to the northeast, and the SPI advancing upon them from the south. So he must choose one of the two horns of the dilemma, either make friends or fight on all fronts.

But there is another powerful factor. The Indian brave, like so many other "braves", is a hero so long as he holds the superior power. Let his opponent display a superior power, and his prowess is gone. And so it has happened with

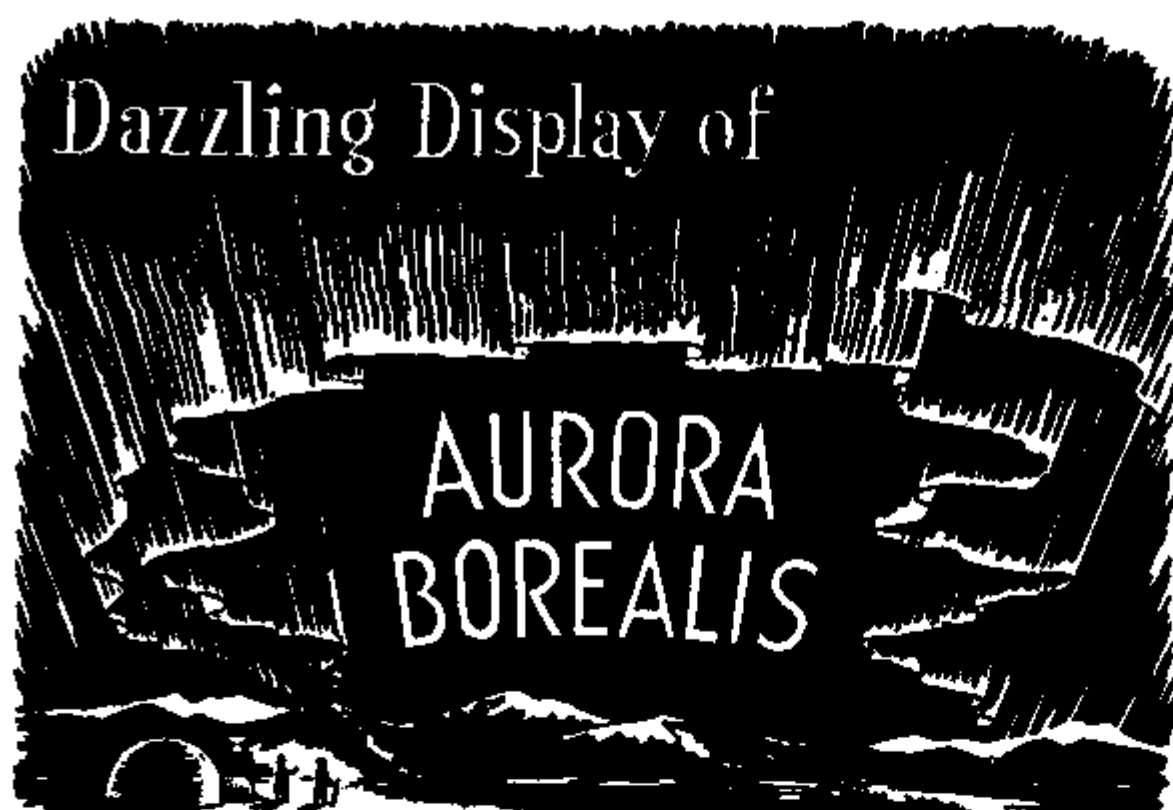
the Chavante. Of late these hated and distrusted enemies have sent flying over his land enormous gray birds that are proof against their arrows and all the charms of their medicine men. Proof against even their storytellers, who have nothing in their lore to account for these strange creatures that fly so swiftly and never flap their wings. Thus the airplane of this twentieth century has struck awe to the heart of the savage, and he realizes that the white man wields a power superior to his.

Pitiful Chavante! Staunchly he resisted the encroachments of "civilization" which would take from him his simple freedom and care-free life with worship of the one "Great Spirit" and give in place of these the white man's uncomfortable clothing, his tobacco and alcohol, his multitudinous diseases, his prisons and torture, his diplomacy and nations disunited by their "good neighbor" policy, and, worst of all, his religious worship of "three gods in one".

Would that it could be that he should not bow his neck to the kings of the earth, but gain a freedom greater than he has ever enjoyed, the freedom of everlasting life in the New World. May there come from his nation too those to whom are promised "out of every nation and of all tribes and peoples and tongues" shall be gathered a great multitude who hail him as King over all the earth. The great spirit power of Jehovah has the willingness to fulfill this promise that "they shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more". "For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of

waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." (Revelation 7:9, *Am. Stan. Ver.*, 16, 17) Why should not the Chavantes be among those tribes?—*Awake!* correspondent in Brazil.





Do sunspots and earthstorms join forces to stage the awe-inspiring lights of "northern dawn"?

"NORTHERN dawn": that is the literal meaning of the term "aurora borealis". These beautiful and awe-inspiring phenomena were originally so named because of the direction in which they were generally seen, to the north, and because, especially in lower latitudes, the light glowing in the northern sky seemed similar to the dawn. Now they are called simply the "northern lights" or "aurora".

But just how large a portion of our globe is privileged to see the aurora? And how often? A surprisingly large area of the earth, although much of it does so very infrequently. Starting in an oval-shaped area whose southern boundaries are roughly the Mediterranean, southern Asia, northern Japan and central Mexico these lights are seen about once in ten years. This southern limit is still imperfectly known, due to scarcity of observations. Traveling northward, the lights gradually increase in frequency until a maximum of more than two hundred and forty are seen each year in a section through northern Norway, Iceland, Labrador, northern Canada and Alaska, and the Arctic coast of Siberia. Then they decrease as the geomagnetic

pole, the center of the earth's magnetic field, is approached. At this spot near Etah in northern Greenland they are seen about fifty times a year. It is probable that there is some aurora present constantly, but at times too faint to be seen, or hidden by clouds, moonlight or sunlight.

Human creatures have long asked what the aurora might be, and the answers have been many and varied, ranging from the theory that they were the mythical Valkyries riding their horses

through the skies, or the spirits of the dead at play, to the "scientific" claim that they resulted from the reflection of sunlight from the polar icefields. Even today these lights and their causes are imperfectly understood; but increasing knowledge of the material creation has brought to light some pertinent facts about them.

Observation has established that the gigantic storms seen upon the face of the sun as sunspots gradually grow in numbers from a minimum to a maximum over a period of about eleven years and that the auroras also increase in frequency over the same period, keeping in step with the sunspots. Apparently the two phenomena are related.

The latest theory visualizes these sunspots throwing out vast quantities of hydrogen atoms something like a volcano, or perhaps more like a monstrous fire hose throwing out a stream of water. Many such streams of hydrogen are spurting from various places on the sun and in many directions. The pressure of the sun's tremendous light may be the propelling power behind these streams, but, at any rate, the fact is established that the magnetic storms which always

accompany the bright, shifting auroras seen in the middle latitudes occur between twenty-four and twenty-five hours after the sunspot which caused them crossed the central meridian of the sun. That is when the sunspot would be "aimed" in the direction of the earth. To accomplish this journey from sun to earth the particles must travel around a thousand miles a second.

These magnetic storms should not be confused with the electric or thunderstorm. A magnetic storm may be in progress without a cloud in the sky or any visible evidence except the aurora. But these storms do interrupt telephone, teletype and radio communication and cause erratic compass readings, and for these reasons attempts are now being made to forecast them, with some success.

When a sunspot has caused one aurora and accompanying magnetic storm, then it may well cause another when it is again brought into position to throw its stream of hydrogen particles in the earth's path. This interval varies, depending on the position of the sunspot on the sun. Sunspots in latitudes of thirty-five degrees from the sun's equator are carried around the sun in some twenty-seven days' time, while those near the sun's equator take only twenty-five days. These sunspots may continue for six, or even twelve months, spraying the earth with hydrogen particles each time the sun turns that portion of its face in our direction.

Of course, there are many sunspots which throw out their streams in directions far from the vicinity of the earth. Because of the angle between the plane of the earth in its circle around the sun and the plane of the sun's apparent rotation on its axis, the earth is in a more direct line with the areas of greatest sunspot activity on the sun during the equinoxes; and it is at these seasons that the aurora is most frequent.

When the earth approaches one of these streams of hydrogen atoms from

the sun then its magnetic field takes control and diverts them toward the north and south poles, where they smash into the gases of the atmosphere, causing these gases to glow with that light which we call the aurora. Oxygen and nitrogen are the atmospheric gases affected and both give off a variety of colors depending upon their state of excitation. The principal colors seen are white, yellow, red and green. Oxygen is the source of the bright red, nitrogen of the orange-red, oxygen of the yellow. The remaining colors, blue-green, violet, and white, are from nitrogen.

And how high are the auroral lights? Many are the accounts describing them down lower than the mountains, and some will even describe displays they have seen touch the ground. The lowest measured aurora, according to the University of Alaska, at Fairbanks, was some thirty miles above the earth. Mostly they occur at heights of fifty miles or more, the highest yet measured being six hundred miles high.

Many and varied are the forms of the aurora, and several forms may succeed each other or may be present at the same instant forming part of one grand pageant. Add to the variety of form the major colors of the rainbow, and the effect is indeed almost beyond description. Sometimes all you see is a misplaced and unimpressively faint patch of light in the northern sky, truly a 'northern dawn'; or it may be a single brilliantly white ray of light that you at first dismiss as a searchlight beam but finally realize it is too far-reaching to be a man-made light. Often there will appear a group of these rays all radiating from a common center. These rays may be of various lengths, some disappearing beyond the horizon. This form is called a corona.

Another time a long band or arc will appear, perhaps greenish-blue, purple, or orange-red. This may develop a rayed appearance along its upper edge, as if

hundreds of searchlights were pointing upward parallel beams. When an arc is very bright the lower part will usually be red, the middle, yellow, and the upper part, green. A rarely seen event is the arc from which a series of arcs spring up at intervals of one or two seconds moving swiftly upward and across the sky like ocean waves following one another.

Can you picture a gigantic theater curtain whose bottom edge is hanging some fifty miles up in the sky and extending hundreds of miles to your right and left? Its upper reaches fade out so that you cannot see from what it is hanging. Can you see the high-lights where some unseen colored footlights catch the folds in the curtain and reflect from them? There is darkness between the folds where the shadows of the high-lighted portions fall, but the undulated lower edge is clearly outlined for its entire length. And the folds of this curtain are moving, rippling as if blown about by a strong wind. There you have a picture of the 'drapery' form of the aurora. These may be shorter, some horseshoe-shaped.

An excellent and vivid description is

that by George Kennan in *Tent Life in Siberia*, as follows:

The whole universe seemed to be on fire. A broad arch of brilliant prismatic colours spanned the heavens from east to west like a gigantic rainbow, with a long fringe of crimson and yellow streamers stretching up from its convex edge to the very zenith. At intervals of one or two seconds, wide, luminous bands, parallel with the arch, rose suddenly out of the northern horizon and swept with a swift, steady majesty across the whole heavens, like long breakers of phosphorescent light rolling in from some limitless ocean of space.

In times past some outstanding auroras, the evidence of the Creator's power and love for His creatures, have startled religiously inclined persons into great fear and consternation as they jumped to the conclusion that the earthly globe was about to go up in flames. Contrastingly, informed servants of Jehovah, viewing the vast, colorful, panorama of an aurora, alive with movement, see with added force the truthfulness of David's inspired words, at Psalm 19:1: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." —*Awake!* correspondent in Alaska.



Advice About Dogs



During 1948 the Chicago post office displayed a poster instructing mail carriers on how to protect themselves from vicious dogs. The following is an extract from the advice it gave: "A dog is not necessarily a brave fellow. He calculates the strength of his enemy. He likes to bluff and likewise can be bluffed. It is fatal strategy to give evidence to the dog that one is afraid of him or that one hesitates. The fast-walking-straight-ahead letter carrier, speaking roughly to the dog and paying little attention to him, oftentimes gains entrance. The dog is non-plussed or is uncertain. The least attention one can pay to the dog aids in lessening the dog's desire to attack. Never pet a dog. In many instances when there is imminent danger, the best strategy is to face him and stand perfectly still. Then back away slowly. Never turn your back and run. Talking to a dog in a soft, low, friendly tone aids somewhat. It is a problem which never can be solved entirely, and the dog is only acting logically from his viewpoint. He thinks he is doing a great favor to his master when he barks and gives the appearance of attacking. Usually, a person in uniform or a person carrying some article is a suspicious character to the dog. For the letter carrier to chase the dog, strike at the dog or otherwise attack the dog seldom is good policy. It does work occasionally, but in most instances the dog acquires a life-long enemy, in his opinion."

Exploding Grain into Breakfast Food

¶ For centuries man has devised various ways of preparing his food. Grains have been roasted or parched for thousands of years, for we read at Leviticus 23:14: "Till you have brought the offering for your God, you must eat neither bread nor grain, roasted or fresh." (*Moffatt*) But only recently have grains been roasted so intensely that they exploded into puffed cereals. A visit to Kingdom Farm in upstate New York will show us the process. There Jehovah's witnesses produce large quantities of food for full-time ministers, and possess facilities for puffing cereals.

¶ The equipment is simple. It is essentially a heavy iron barrel with a tight-fitting lid, and it rotates slowly as it is heated by a gas flame. Into the heavy iron compartment has been put eight pounds of wheat, a tablespoonful of salt and a little water, and these ingredients have been sealed in by a heavy lid that has a special double-grooved lead seat. The gauge indicates slowly mounting pressure, till it exerts a force of 250 pounds to the square inch. Quickly the operator stops the rotating mechanism, throws the lever that releases the lid, and out flies the exploding grain with a boom like a small cannon!

¶ What has happened is this: Inside the revolving barrel the grains of wheat have reached a high roasting temperature and also a great pressure is built up inside the grains. The heavy structure of the barrel not only is required to withstand the 250-pound pressure but is needed to retain the heat and bring all the kernels to an even temperature. When the moisture and pressure and heat are correct and lid is thrown open, the pressure blows the grain

from the barrel's mouth like buckshot from a shotgun. When the grain hits the atmosphere it puffs out in a sort of "controlled explosion", enlarging to about eight times its original size. Thousands of air spaces interlaced between the cells of the grain give us the familiar puffed wheat. If too much heat and pressure are used the "explosion" of the grain is not "controlled";

the grain loses its shape or even flies into dust particles. If other conditions are not correct, unpuffed grains result.

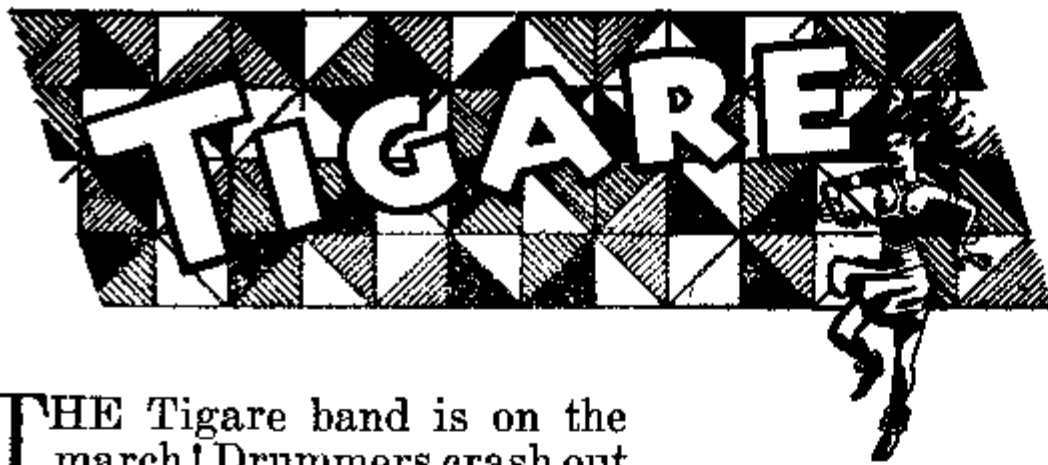
¶ When the "barrel gun" booms and the grain shoots out it is trapped in a small room or specially constructed enclosure and falls into a container. The puffed wheat is ready to eat. Never is it better than right from the puffing machine. The grains are warm, fresh and crisp, and seem to taste better than when served on the table. To retain this desirable crispness manufacturers often heat the puffed grain again just before packing it in moisture-proof containers. If moisture in the air has robbed the grains of their crispness, restore it by heating in an oven before serving.

¶ Why are not more grains puffed? Well, it seems that only a few grains lend themselves to successful exploding. Even some varieties of the same grain puff better than others. With wheat, the hard, winter varieties are the best, and old wheat is better than newly harvested grain. Rice puffs very well, and the procedure is the same as that employed on wheat, except that the operator does not turn the heat so high and brings the pressure up slower and allows the machine to run longer. Whereas wheat was not released till the pressure rose to 250 pounds, rice is puffed when 150 pounds of pressure is reached. Incidentally, the pressure in the usual pressure cooker does not exceed 15 pounds.

¶ Corn also puffs quite well, but is not as popular as wheat or rice. When corn is blasted from the barrel it is quite different from the familiar, fluffy popcorn. Puffed corn expands equally in all directions to form

a round, enlarged ball. Popcorn varieties are better for puffing than the field corn. Barley has been puffed some, but the grains do not enlarge as well as wheat and it has never become popular. Some manufacturers have spent much time and money trying to puff oats and other grains, but have never found it practical enough to put them on the market.





Religious Racket in Africa



THE Tigare band is on the march! Drummers crash out with a few bars of hearty drumming. Crowds burst into the biggest of yells. A fervor of excitement arrests the attention of the passer-by as the Tigare priestess dances amid the excited tom-tom beats and the rattling calabashes. With unbound hair, and a short calico skirt slung loosely about her waist, her body decked with black and white beads, sundry anklets, bells and amulets, the fetish-priestess dances. Suddenly she will tremble like a reed on her feet; then, like lightning break into jiggling and shaking in every limb. An occasional skip and a high leap in the air form part of the possessed medium's dance. And indeed the woman is possessed, for as one looks at the oppressed and worried look on her face she appears to be in a hysterical fit, a curious mixture of unrestrained and self-conscious behavior.

The priestess, streaked with runnels of sweat, does a few forward dancing steps, halts, and is followed by the drums and the beating tom-toms. This action is followed from time to time, for the town must hear that the Tigare band is on the march. Round the town the band dances on its way. Many of the hitherto following spectators, upon hearing the continuous yells, singing, monotonous drumbeats, clapping and bawling rhythmically, join in on the dance, doing an occasional somersault or roll, only later to join the ever-growing crowd.

Parading around town in this way is done in the hope that many more credulous people will succumb to the newly demonized practices of Tigare. But

where did the Tigare cult originate? and what are its effects upon the people in this part of the globe? Such questions are timely and appropriate, for today throughout many parts of West Africa there is an overspreading of the movement, and its blind adherents grow daily. Tigare originated from the French Ivory Coast and was introduced into the Gold Coast some years ago as *Aberewa*. Later, to avoid falling foul of the British government, it assumed the name of *Hwemso*.

However, turning back the pages of history on the Gold Coast, we find that long before the invasion of Tigare from the French Ivory Coast the Ga people were ruled by a high priest. Hence the one-time government of the Ga tribe was a fetish hierarchy. Fully realizing now that many parts of West Africa found their deep-rooted origin in fetishism, it is no wonder then that certain credulous individuals, helped by their ignorance or lack of conviction in higher beliefs, once again try to turn to the original form of fetish rule, and this as represented today under the new name Tigare. It has also been proved, from information that has come to light, that certain of the native chiefs have either allowed or in some cases asked priests of the Tigare cult to come and practice in their states, and this in some ways serves as a source of revenue to the chiefs.

If in this article we had time to check the ancient practices of the original fetish-priests, and paraphernalia associated with them, we would realize that ancient fetishism and Tigare are in fact one in purpose and ideas.

Practices of Tigare

Let us now for a few moments pause to look in on an official secret meeting of the Tigare cult. Before our eyes is a raised mound or platform at the rear of which is a wall; this is termed the "sanctified" area and has previously been covered with kola that has been "sanctified" by the high fetish priest. Our attention is next drawn to a black bag hanging on the wall above the "sanctified" area. This is the Tigare fetish,[†] and contains cowries and kola. A little way ahead of us, some little distance away from the "sanctified" area, attired in his official dress of a big gown and cap, both of which are studded with charms and amulets, the priest stands.

The meeting is about to begin, and the priest beckons a woman toward him. Apparently the woman is here in the hope that Tigare will give her power to beget a child. Now the priest, hand in hand with the woman, leads her to the "sanctified" area, where she kneels and prays to Tigare, and promises to give four bullocks if her prayer be granted. The woman has now finished her petition. The priest now moves nearer to the "sanctified" area and invokes the help of Tigare saying: "Thou great hunter Tigare, thou hast heard the prayer of thy maid-servant; bless her and grant her prayer." Audible to all, the priest is reciting the Tigare ten commandments to the supplicant:

(1) Do not speak evil of your friend on the public highway. (2) Do not use the name of God in cursing your fellow men. (3) Do not steal, except where Tigare allows it. (4) Do not defraud your fellow men. (5) Do not break up another person's home through adultery (if you are a woman). (6) Do not gossip or speak untruth about your fellow man.

* "Kola" is a nut collected from a tropical African tree. It is used as a condiment and digestive, a tonic, and an antidote to alcohol.

† "By 'fetish' I mean a palpable inanimate object which is either permanently or intermittently the home of an invisible being." *Religion and Medicine of the Ga People*, by M. J. Field, page 4, paragraph 1.

(7) Do not make *sipe*" (i.e., cherish evil thoughts about other people). (8) Do not harbor witchcraft. (9) Do not take the life of another person either by poisoning or by any other method. (10) Do not challenge the power of Tigare.

Silence falls over the meeting. The woman and the priest stand together for a few seconds. Again the priest is speaking; this time it is a message of warning to the woman. "If you violate or break any of these commandments your only hope is to return immediately and confess to Tigare and fulfill the appropriate penance to receive pardon." The devotee is now being offered some of the "sanctified" kola, and with white clay from the "sanctified" area a mark is placed upon the woman's forehead, ears, back of her head and on her neck, by the priest. The markings on the devotee are an outward sign of sanctification and admission to the Tigare group.

Many are the people who, like this woman, come to Tigare. Some come in search of health or wealth. Yet others come in the hope of gaining position or promotion. Whatever be the petition to Tigare, it must always be accompanied, if answered, by a gift offering.

Public Reactions in the Gold Coast

Many are the dangers that lurk in the path of the Tigare follower. First, it is clear to see that there is a great drain of wealth due to the unceasing demands of the fetish. Second, when people are possessed of the fetish kola is offered for them to chew. It is thought, although it has not been proved, that the kola offered to many of these people has been subjected to treatment in one way or another. To bear out this above statement, the book, *Tigare, A Report* issued by The Christian Council of the Gold Coast, page 5, paragraph 3, alleges that in the kola nut in some instances "alligator bile is inserted capable of causing at least temporary mental derangement . . . in this condition even child devotees have

been known to confess to having caused the death of people through witchcraft and there are cases in which people have become insane and died". An example of a victim's course of action is found in *The African Morning Post* of Tuesday, June 22, 1948:

Last week-end there was much consternation in the Gold Coast Hospital when one ex-senior female nurse was reported to have fallen a victim to the Tigari cult. . . . Three days later she fell a victim to the fetish. Immediately when she was taken to Apenkwa, a local branch of the cult, she made some startling revelations. She said when she was at the Children's Hospital and the Maternity Hospital she caused the death of about 104 babies; . . . It is funny to believe these sayings, but they were uttered by this well-respected nurse.

Indeed Tigare has become the talk of this country. Books have been written, printed and translated on the subject, warning the man in the street about its

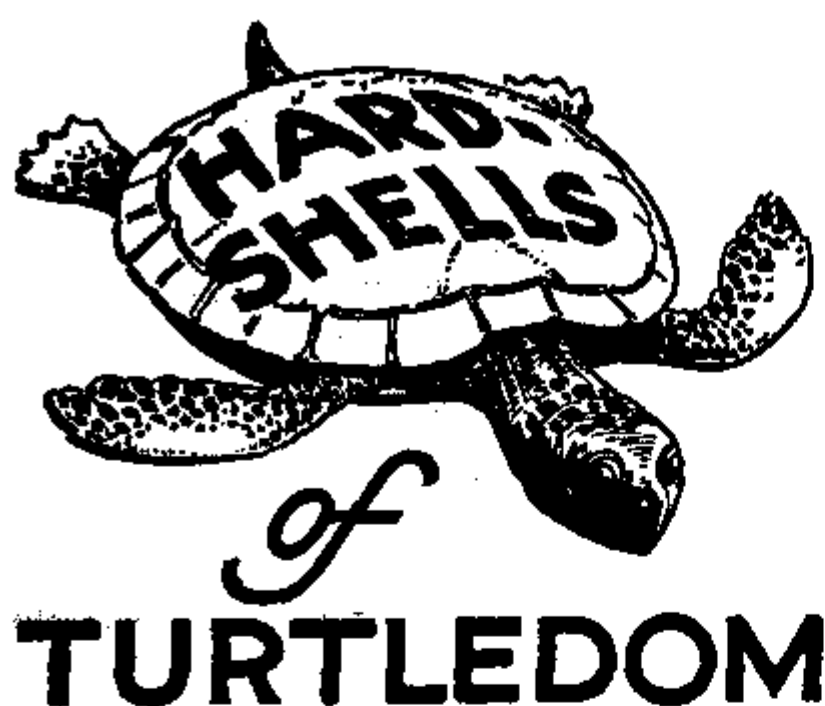
dangers. In view of the above information it is difficult to understand how any who claim to be Christians could associate with such people. Yet under the heading, "Christians & Heathens Pray for Cause," *The Spectator Daily* of September 18, 1948, says this: "Boso, Sept. 5—Christians of all denominations, Tigari priests and other non-Christians including Chiefs combined here to pray for the country's cause."

Balancing the scale, on the other hand, for a 'true Christians' fight for pure worship is the report appearing in *The African Morning Post*, July 20, 1948. "ASUBONI, July 9—One of the Tigari priests here has joined the sacred organization known as Jehovah's Witnesses." The action of this man along with other sincere worshipers of the True God, Jehovah, is indeed a source of encouragement to honest persons the world over.—*Awake!* correspondent in the Gold Coast.



Poisoning by Broken Fluorescent Lamps

◆ If a person is cut by a piece of glass from a broken fluorescent lamp chronic inflammation may result. Months may be required for the wound to heal, and in some instances surgery is required, perhaps several times, to remove dead or degenerated tissue or tumor masses from the place of the cut. The danger lies in the powder used to line the inside of the lamp, for it contains a small amount of the metal beryllium, which is very poisonous. Besides the beryllium powder in the lamp another source of danger is the mercury. When the lamp is broken poisonous mercury vapor is given off. But the beryllium danger is the more serious one and needs emphasis. Hence extreme caution must be exercised in the disposal of fluorescent tubes. Never should they come into the hands of children. Dust or fumes from a broken tube must be prevented from entering the system, either through a cut or the nose or mouth. So great is the danger that power companies have special machines for breaking old tubes. They are enclosed within a strong metal case which breaks them under water, and the personnel operating the machines wear special protective clothing. Brief advice is difficult to offer to consumers as to safe disposal methods in the home. Do not leave them in rubbish heaps. Do not destroy them in incinerators. Do not let them come into the hands of children. If one breaks in a room, get out till any dust stirred up has settled, and do not try to pick up broken bits with the fingers. Lamp makers have launched experiments to find synthetic non-metallic powders to replace the dangerous beryllium, but in the meantime it is essential that everyone using fluorescent lamps or apt to come in contact with old tubes be warned of the dangers involved.



MAN'S boasted longevity in this twentieth century is nothing to compare with that of the lowly, armor-plated tortoise. Or is it a turtle? Well, in Britain, *tortoise* is the general name applied to members of the zoological order *Chelonia*, whereas *turtle* refers only to the marine species of this order. In America, however, "turtle" is loosely applied to both marine and land specimens, and other names like *terrapin* and *water-tortoise* are used to designate particular species. The chelonologists who make these "hard shells" their study subdivide the 300 living species into various families, orders and genres and give each a Latin name. But never mind that; the name is not too important. Call them turtles, tortoises or terrapins as you please, it does not alter the fact that they are bulky, strange-looking, slow-moving, clumsy creatures. And no wonder, they carry their houses around on their backs!

Though cold-blooded creatures, members of turtle society are not found in the polar regions. They prefer the temperate and tropical regions, where they live under a variety of conditions. Large numbers spend their lifetime in the water; some choose salt water, others fresh water. Others are landlubbers in the fullest sense, while still others, being amphibious, love the low bottom-lands along slow-running rivers and sluggish

streams. Each species is well equipped for the conditions under which it lives. The ocean-going turtles have their limbs designed like paddles; the amphibious puddle-splashers have webbed, ducklike feet.

There is also great variety in the sizes, shapes and color of these crusty creatures. The leathery turtle, also called the luth, is the largest of them all, reaching a length of 8 feet and a weight of nearly a ton. The giant Galapagos tortoise, originally from the islands off the coast of Ecuador by the same name, are the largest of the terrestrial species. The Muhlenberg turtle, on the other hand, found in the eastern part of the United States, is a wee thing less than 4 inches long when full-grown. Its babies, when first hatched, are no bigger than June bugs. The alligator terrapins are so named because their tails resemble alligators. The unusual musk turtle or stink pot terrapin of North and Central America has an offensive "B.O." due to its inguinal glands. The "orneriest" member of the whole tribe, the snapper turtle, mocks the proverbial slowness of his fellows by striking out at an adversary "with the speed of a boxer's fist", to quote Roy L. Abbott of Iowa State Teachers College.

The most unusual and outstanding thing about the turtle is his "shell". It is made up of two parts, the upper half, called the *carapace*, and the lower, the *plastron*. The carapace, though very strong and tough, is not a single piece like the pressed-out turret-top of the modern automobile. Down the middle of the back is a row of several bony shields or plates that are firmly welded to the vertebrae beneath. On each side of this central row are other plates fused to the



ribs. Then running around the edge, forming a border, are many smaller plates. Each shell has its own color and characteristic markings. The Indian star tortoise, for example, can be distinguished at a glance by the black and yellow streaks that radiate from the center of each shield. Many are covered with horny scales. The leatherback is in a class by itself, having a leathery coating over its bony back.

On the underside is the plastron, also made up of a number of bony parts, and in some species, like the box turtle, it is so constructed that the head and legs can be pulled in, all entrances and gateways closed, and the plastron and carapace drawn tight together. The long-necked turtles found in Australia, Burma, Siam and southern China, however, cannot shut themselves up so completely in time of danger, no, not with a 14-inch neck and a 5-inch shell. The best they can do is to make a vertical S-shaped fold in their snakelike necks.

Queer Creatures in Other Ways

Not having ears like "soft-shelled" humans, it is believed that turtles do not hear. But they have good eyes. In fact, they even have a sense of color similar to man's, and can distinguish between black and white, red and green or yellow, violet or blue. As vocalists, they are a failure. Females utter only a faint hiss, and males only a feeble peep, generally. The giant tortoise does a little better, having what is called a hoarse bellow.

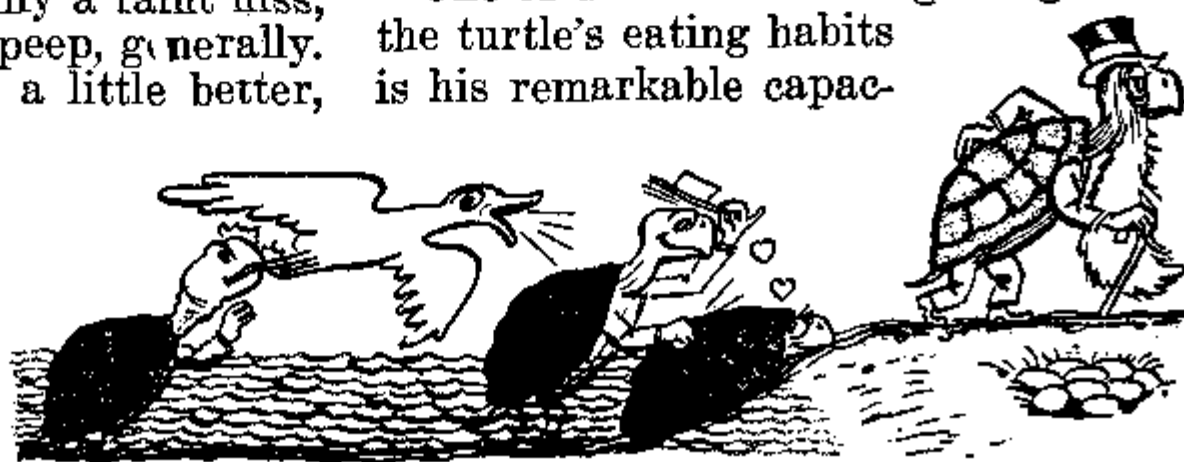
How turtles breathe has been a subject of controversy and one that is not altogether understood. Some contend that they breathe

like frogs, pump air in by "throat action", sort of swallowing movement. More recent investigation shows they have definite diaphragmatic muscles located in the leg pockets of the shell. Also the aquatic species are able to absorb oxygen from the water as do fish. Some, like the snapper turtle, that are ordinarily air-breathers, can submerge themselves for hours if they remain motionless.

Turtles, and that includes every member of the tribe, do not have teeth, but, instead, have their jawbones covered over with horny plates with sharp, cutting edges. Equipped with powerful jaw muscles, these serve the purpose very well. Some claim that the giant Galapagos has enough strength to bite a man's hand off at the wrist. These docile monsters, however, are strict vegetarians.

The leatherback turtles, and the majority of other marine species, are carnivorous, some even being raptorial, whereas the terrestrial species are herbivorous. The box turtle and a few others try to eat a "balanced diet" made up of snails, earthworms, grubs and slugs together with green vegetation in the form of fungi. The snapping turtles have been charged with killing large numbers of fish and wild-life fowl, but a three-year study showed there was no foundation for the claim. A queer thing about these turtles is that in captivity they will eat practically anything that comes their way—rats, frogs, earthworms, grasshoppers, etc.—but only if it is eaten under water. It seems they cannot swallow food in the air.

One of the most amazing things about the turtle's eating habits is his remarkable capac-



ity to fast, if necessary, and for this reason the giant Galapagos almost became extinct in the days of sailing vessels. Because they could be kept alive for weeks without food or water they were taken along as a supply of fresh meat. Newborn snappers can go through a winter and far into the next summer with very little if any food. And because the turtle is such a poor traveler his ability to go without food enables him to survive local food shortages. Migration is out of the question, and so they hibernate through the winter. Those in the woods bury themselves under a pile of rubbish, while those living in lakes and ponds sink in the mud on the bottom, where it never freezes. Gopher turtles of the desert wasteland, which know not what a mud-bottomed pond looks like, simply burrow a tunnel, perhaps 15 to 30 feet deep, where it is possible to escape the bitter cold from November through February. To escape the burning heat of the summertime these tunneling turtles dig 3- and 4-foot retreats into the cool gravel banks.

Long-living Creatures

These crusty instructors could teach man a thing or two about longevity, for they never rush around, never have a nervous breakdown. A giant Galapagos that carried children around on its back in the London Zoo died a few years ago at the age of 200. One venerable fellow in the New York Bronx Zoo is estimated to be over 250. It is said that the one that was living on its native island of Mauritius in 1766 would still be living had it not accidentally been killed in 1918. Some turtles, it is thought, are capable of living six or seven centuries, all of which rather embarrasses short-lived man when he tries to study the turtle's life cycle. Full-fledged turtlehood comes slowly. One grew in length at the rate of eight-tenths of an inch per year; another added only one-third of an inch every two and a half years. A 5-inch shell may

mean its occupant is 12 or 13 years old. Hence no single person can observe and record the birth, infancy, youth, growth, mating, egg-laying, old age and death of some of the great-great-granddaddy turtles, the longest-living of all vertebrates.

The fact that they have few enemies, aside from man, is one of the factors contributing to their longevity. The added weight of barnacles that attach themselves to the shell and ride piggy-back "free" does not harm the marine turtle. Even when leeches and inch-long parasitic worms eat into the soft parts around the eyes, and tapeworms infest the intestines, turtles somehow seem to live on and on. If the shell is cut half in two it will grow together again. When a horse crushed the shell of a turtle, it is reported, the bones grew together again and Mr. Turtle lived. When a kind-hearted man once decided to mercifully kill a couple of turtles in a lethal gas chamber he rigged up an airtight box with the gas range and turned on the jet. To his amazement, after thirty minutes the turtles seemed unaffected, and even another thirty minutes did not faze them. When it comes to stamina and endurance under punishment these creatures really have it.

Family Life a Small Problem

The choosing of a lifelong mate, the arranging of an elaborate wedding, the pain of childbirth, the worry of raising helpless children, are problems all too great for the turtle to handle. So these easy-going care-free creatures simply avoid them. Reaching adulthood, which varies from 6 to 15 years in different species, they seek out mates after their kind. When a suitor finally finds a girlfriend that suits his fancy he tells her of his love in his own peculiar way. The Muhlenberg turtle, for example, while half in and half out of the water, affectionately love-taps the shell of his spouse. Another tenderly tickles and scratches his sweetheart's leathery face.

But in all cases the attachment one to another seems to be short and sweet, and when they separate each goes its own way until nature's wedding bells ring out again.

In the whole matter of raising a family the only point the mother shows any fussiness about is in choosing a suitable place to deposit her eggs. The little Muhlenberg mistress lays her six or seven eggs in a carefully-chosen clump of moss not too far from the water. Other turtles roam over a radius of half a mile to find the right place to bury their eggs. The females of all aquatic species come ashore at egg-laying time.

An eyewitness account tells how giant 3- and 4-foot loggerhead turtles slowly crawl up the beach on a bright moonlight night anytime between May and August, leaving trails in the sand that look like those made by the caterpillar treads of tractors. Reaching a spot high above the water's edge the mama turtle digs a pit $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 feet deep and a foot in diameter with her back flippers. She then sprays the sidewalls with cloacal bladder water to prevent a cave-in, and proceeds dropping one or two eggs every 4 to 10 seconds, taking care to gradually inch herself forward to prevent the eggs from piling up in one spot. Funny thing, once she starts laying, nothing, not even rough handling by a man, interrupts her until the job is finished. She then carefully covers them up and levels off the ground before returning to the sea that she left two hours before.

The eggs, numbering between 40 and 300, have plastic, parchment-like shells that can be dented without harming the embryo, as if they were worn-out rubber balls. The heat of the sun incubates them at a mean temperature of 84 degrees Fahrenheit for seven or eight weeks. Upon hatching they mill around until they come to the surface three to five days later, and make a dash for the sea on a moonlight night. Investigation has shown that it is not the sound or smell

of the water that tells them which direction to go, as formerly supposed, but rather the reflection of the moon on the water. On a dark night they cannot make the journey, and if a spotlight is reflected on the sand they will go as quickly in the wrong direction as in the right one.

Mrs. Snapper follows a procedure similar to that of the female loggerhead. Coming up from a fresh-water lake or stream, she hunts for a suitable spot to plant her eggs, perhaps a watermelon patch 200 yards from the water. There she scoops out a hole and drops her 20 to 30 rubbery-shelled eggs, and, if a skunk does not dig them up, they hatch three months later.

Hazards of Being a Turtle

Mama turtle leaves her young to shift for themselves, forage their own food, and fight their own battles. If they are fortunate enough to escape the devouring clutches of a hungry bullfrog or bass, and are successful in meeting the problems, hardships and troubles of the cruel world during the years of childhood and adolescence, turtles have a fair chance of living to a ripe old age. At least old enough and ripe enough to make good turtle soup!

A 20-pound snapper is prized as a food delicacy. More so, the diamondback terrapin found in the shallow brackish waters in the bays, estuaries and coastal swamps from Cape Cod to Texas. Around 1900 these sold for three cents a pound, but when their fame in the soup kettle became generally known diamondbacks grew so rare the government set up breeding stations and restocked the natural supply with 250,000 young ones. In 1926 a dozen six-inchers brought \$72, and at one time 50,000 pounds of diamondbacks were captured annually. In addition, 5,000 great 250-pound green turtles taken from the warm waters of the Caribbean each year are cooked with 35 vegetables and 50 different herbs and spices to make an epicurean delight that sells for a dollar a quart.

Backsliding Religion

Gamblers hate publicity, including religious gamblers. In Sharpsburg, Pa., on September 6, 1948, 3,500 went on a gambling spree under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church of the Madonna. More than six blocks of Main street were roped off for tables, loud-speakers and other elaborate gambling equipment. When press photographers arrived to take pictures, priest Mastrangelo said, "No pictures, no story." A flying squad was organized to carry out the order. Police and firemen backed up the priest, when protesting newsmen asked: "This is a city street; aren't we allowed to take pictures here?" Big prizes were a Piper airplane and three new cars. Reportedly each person bought a ticket on a car to gain admission. Last year 3,000 persons had paid \$10 each to gamble for four cars, and the publicity given then had irked the priest. Hence no freedom of press this time. The police chief was out of town, and later commented: "Sometimes a little trip is good for a man's health." Spiritual health would be improved by a little Bible knowledge, for instance: "My house shall be called the house of prayer; but you have made it a den of thieves."—Matthew 21:13, Catholic Douay Bible.

In excavations being made under the basilica of St. Peter in Rome they have found Christ represented under the symbol of the sun. The West Virginia Catholic Register, January 28, 1949, sought to justify this early Catholic combining of Christ with pagan sun-worship by saying: "One of the mystery religions, to which Constantine had belonged, followed the cult of the Unconquered Sun, and the Church pursued its usual practice of turning an essentially good pagan idea to her own use." Pagan sun-worship good? "Lest perhaps lifting up thy eyes to heaven, thou see the sun and the moon, and all the stars of heaven, and being deceived by error thou adore and serve them." All right to adopt paganism? "What concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath the faithful with the unbeliever? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? . . . Touch not the unclean thing."—Deuteronomy 4:19; 2 Corinthians 6:15-17, Catholic Douay Bible.

Last February U. S. movie exhibitors were trying to discover what was wrong with the movies, in the wake of dropping box-office receipts. One said: "We have had a great deal of glorification of the Catholic and Jewish religions. We must not lose sight that the vast majority of our people, and our critics, are of the Protestant faith."

One of Monsignor Fulton Sheen's slogans is: "No gratuity should ever be accepted from a convert, not even a stole fee at baptism. They will hear plenty of money sermons later on, and it would be a good idea to start them off with a memory of never having heard money from the priest who instructed them."

In campaigning for re-election last year Sam Rayburn displayed his ignorance, saying: "I know that America must have the best army, navy and air force on earth if the Prince of Peace is to reign over a world of free people." Isaiah 34:2 states: "The indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies." No exceptions.

H. A. Robbe Groskamp, of Holland, recently requested the supreme court of Israel to review the trial of Christ Jesus. The judges of the court are reluctant to discuss the petition, and it is doubtful that any review will be conducted. The petitioner's 15-page memorandum is a mixture of mysticism and legal argument.

"THY WORD IS TRUTH"



JOHN 17:17

The Human Soul Destructible

"GOD is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna." From this statement of Jesus Christ, at Matthew 10:28 (*Young*), many people conclude that the human soul is something separate and distinct from the fleshly body and able to survive the body at death. Quite to the contrary, there can be no soul, no sentient creature, without a body. Can we prove it? Yes!

Look at Genesis 2:7: "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Here we see that the human body was formed first. But it was not a man, creature or human soul; not until it was animated. It had eyes, but saw nothing; ears, but heard nothing; a mouth, but spoke nothing; a tongue, but no taste; nostrils, but no sense of smell; a heart, but it pulsated not; blood, but it was cold, lifeless; lungs, but they moved not. It was not a man, but a lifeless form, an inanimate body.

The second step in the process of creating the human soul was in giving vitality to the properly "formed" body. This is described by the words "blew into his nostrils the breath of life". When this occurred, then "man became a living soul". So God's Word says.

When a healthy person has been drowned and animation is wholly suspended, resuscitation has, it is said, been effected by working the arms and thus the lungs as a bellows and so gradually establishing respiration through the nostrils. In Adam's case it, of course, re-

quired no labored effort on the part of the Creator to cause the perfect organism which he had made to breathe the life-giving oxygen of the atmosphere.

As the vitalizing breath entered, the lungs expanded, the blood corpuscles were oxygenized and passed to the heart. This, in turn, propelled them to every part of the body, awakening all the prepared but hitherto dormant nerves to sensation and motor energy. In an instant the energy reached the brain, and thought perception, reasoning, looking, touching, smelling, feeling and tasting commenced. That which was a lifeless human organism had become a *man*, a sentient creature, a "living soul". The "living soul" condition was reached. Here, then, the expression "living soul" means nothing more nor less than a sentient creature, that is to say, a creature capable of sensation, perception and thought.

Even though this first human soul, Adam, was perfect in organism as God's handiwork, it was necessary for him to *sustain* life, sentient existence, the "living soul" condition. To this end he must partake of the trees of the garden of Eden that were "pleasant to the sight and good for food", and must drink of the water that flowed out of his garden home. "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." And after God created a wife for Adam, He said to them: "Behold, I have given you every herb bear-

ing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat."--Gen. 2: 9, 16, 17; 1: 28, 29.

Because of his fall into sin and death, man's condition is far from what it was in its original perfection when pronounced "very good" by the highest Judge, and so some people, by the cultivation of the lower organs of thought and a failure to use the highest intellectual faculties, have dwarfed the organs of the brain representing these higher faculties. Yet the organs are still there and are capable of development. This is not the case with the most nearly perfect specimens of the brute creation. So, then, it is in that the Creator has endowed man with a higher and finer organism that he has made him to differ from the brute. *They have similar flesh and bones, breathe the same air, drink the same water, and eat similar food, and all such creatures possessing intelligence the Bible calls souls.* But man, in his better body, possesses capacity for higher intelligence and is treated by the Creator as on an entirely different level. It is in proportion as sin degrades man from his original likeness of his Creator that he is said to be brutish, bestial.

People whose eyes of understanding begin to open to this subject of "soul" so that they see that the word signifies here the sentient creature, and the expression "breath of life" signifies the power to live imparted by God, can readily see that every creature that possesses life-consciousness has, first of all, a body or organism; secondly, the breath of life animating it; and, thirdly, as a result, existence as an earthly soul. An illustration which has always helped some to grasp the proposition is the similarity between heat and soul. If a lump of coal is placed under favorable conditions, access being given to the oxygen of the air, and then ignited, a new thing will be produced, namely, heat. The coal is not heat,

though it possess some of the qualities which, under favorable conditions, would produce heat; neither is the oxygen heat, yet it also, under favorable conditions, may be an element in producing heat. So, to carry the analogy to its point, the earthly body is not the soul, though the body possesses the qualifications necessary to soul. Neither is the breath of life the soul; it is the power which came from God and which is necessary to the production of the sentient creature. The body, when united with the breath of life by the power of God, produces a new thing, a living creature with sensibilities, a human soul.

In harmony with these facts is the process of dissolution, or death. If the breath or power of life be withdrawn, death results. Now the question is, What dies? Does the breath die? Surely not; *it never had sentient existence but is a principle or power of life.* It has no thought, no feeling, no intelligent existence; it cannot die. Does the body die? No; but it loses the breath or power of life which animated it. But apart from the breath of life the body of itself had no consciousness, no feeling, no sense, and in the strictest sense could not be said to die. Those who contend for the immortality of an invisible, distinct human soul inside the body talk of the body's dying. But the body had no animation before the breath of life came in and combined with it. The body was animate while the breath of life was working through it. It became inanimate again, or lifeless, when the breath was withdrawn.

What, then, dies? Why, it is the soul that dies; the sentient creature ceases. Remember that the sentient creature or soul was produced by the union of the breath of life with the earthly organism, and so the separation of these two factors causes the stoppage of the sentient existence, hence the death of the earthly soul. That this is true of the lower animals, no one would question for a mo-

ment. Is it equally true of man, the highest earthly creature, made in the image and likeness of God? It is no less true.

When wicked men kill a righteous man, does not this result in the death of the human soul? Yes. How is it then that Jesus said Christians should not fear other men because these can only kill the body but cannot kill the soul? By this He did not mean the soul was immortal and indestructible, because He added that God is able to destroy both body and soul in Gehenna, this place

representing destruction or annihilation for the wicked. Men can, by killing the body, stop our present existence as human souls; but if God approves of us as souls because of our righteousness through Christ, then those men cannot kill or destroy our right to life as sentient creatures or souls. Hence in the resurrection Almighty God will restore our life as souls, to live forever in His righteous new world. But by withholding a resurrection from wicked sinners, God destroys their soul.



Liberation of Jews from Cyprus Camps

IN AUGUST, 1946, the British stopped the entry of Jews to Palestine above the monthly quota of 1,500, and anyone who ventured to set foot in Palestine was labeled an "illegal" immigrant, if he was not one of the "quota". The peaceful island of Cyprus was the place chosen to establish the detention camps. The conditions inside the camps were not always pleasant. Apart from the inmates' being embittered and depressed, they had to cope with skin diseases caused by bedbugs and lice.

As the days passed by, the internees looked with longing eyes across the pale blue waters of the eastern Mediterranean. Yes, across those waters lay their goal 'the promised land', but there was an expanse of over 150 miles of water between. The thought of escape presented itself. Many were eager for adventure, so organization for escape was made. How to pass the triple wire barrier and the British troops acting as guards outside was not the most difficult problem, nor the crossing of a mile of open country to reach the coast, but it was the getting of transport to cross the water that separates Cyprus from Palestine.

In the camps were men of all professions, and between them plans were laid for escape. Engineers began to build a number of well-constructed tunnels. One

such tunnel was 450 feet long and another 35 feet deep. But when outside the camp, the one escaping must be familiar with the land, so cartographers in the camps prepared a 6-foot-square model of the whole area surrounding the camps and examined those preparing escapes on every irregularity of ground affording cover. Every tree, path and road was accurately marked. Then, too, Greek inhabitants might be encountered; so they were taught the Greek language. The whole matter had been handled efficiently and with good organization. The British authorities permitted monthly quotas to leave the camps, and the Jews provided their own ships to transport these to Palestine. However, besides these, there were also escapees who were regularly picked up off shore.

Then came the ending of the British Mandate in Palestine, which did much to encourage more to escape, seeing that the "quota" barrier was gone. There were so many escapes taking place that the authorities changed the guards to marine commandos. Twenty-seven persons were caught escaping in one evening, but the same night 30 passed under the wire barriers unnoticed. Groups assembled on the lonely coasts of the island to be picked up by small Jewish ships called "escape shipping". One report tells of

how seven men and a girl rowed across in a stolen boat. None cared as long as they could reach their goal.

When the British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin declared that the internees were free to leave the camps, 150 were already free in the island waiting for transport. Sixty returned to the main gate of one of the camps and gave themselves up, while the other 90 broke back into camp. An Israel camp leader claimed that in 2½ years 1,809 internees had escaped. This was also confirmed when the last batch left the camps, when it was found that there were about 2,000 less than the official estimate.

During the whole period of detention, which lasted 909 days, the American Joint Distribution Committee of Cyprus, a Jewish relief organization, brought relief to over 52,000 Jews who became members of the imprisoned cities. The committee had a staff of 50 to 100 persons, including doctors, dentists, nurses, teachers, social workers, dieticians, etc. Over \$1,800,000 was spent on the intern-

ees, besides 250 tons of clothing, parcels of food, medical supplies and other welfare articles.

A ray of hope pierced the gloom of the camps when in July, 1948, the British government decided to let more internees return to Palestine, but not men of military age. The age limit caused many complications. Older persons who were dependent on their 'military age' sons were prevented from going, also wives with husbands in the same age group. This saw the breaking up of many a family and amid cheers and tears the imprisoned cities became less densely populated. The last step toward liberation came when Mr. Bevin, the foreign secretary, announced in the House of Commons that the detainees were to be released. The "cities" were still inhabited by 11,000 prisoners when the news came through. The camps were the scenes of great jubilation. In freedom now, they could finish their journey to the "promised land".—*Awake!* correspondent in Cyprus.

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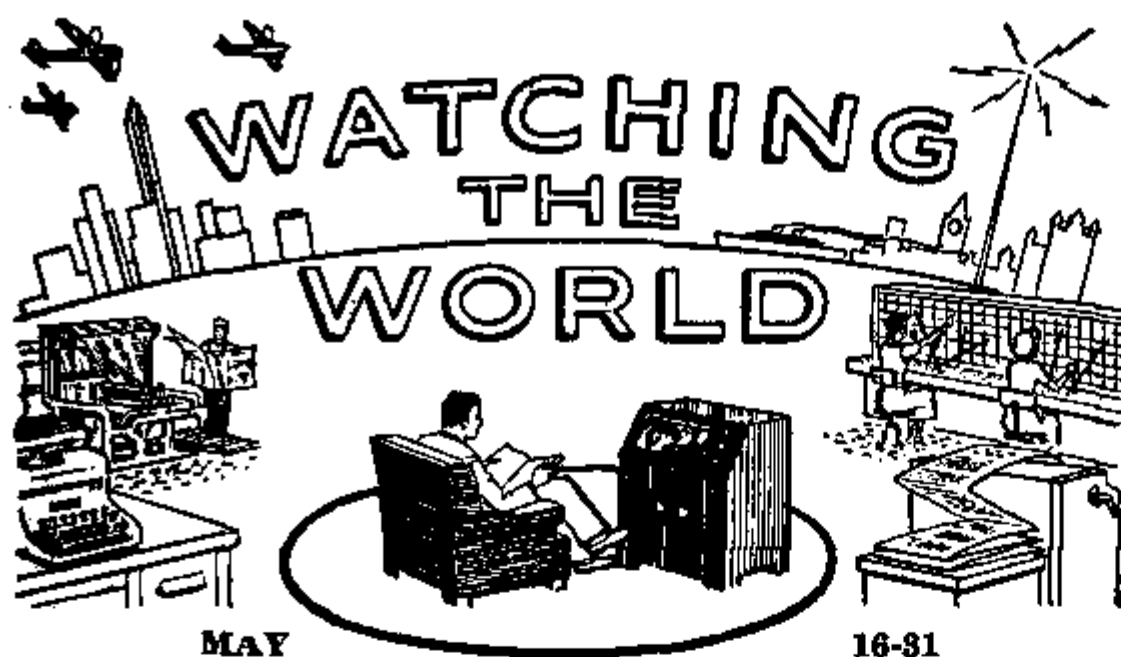
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Fall of Shanghai

◆ Communist forces in mid-May closed in on China's great seaport city of Shanghai, the largest city in all Asia and fourth-largest in the world. Shanghai's will to resist seemed no stronger than the wooden fence which had been erected between it and the invading forces. Though Nationalist, Shanghai seemed all but indifferent to its "fate", as though choosing between two evils, not knowing which was the lesser. On May 24 the Communist armies began to march into the city. Resistance was sporadic, and the Nationalists abandoned the wooden fence they had built, withdrawing along the Whangpoo river, from which point they hoped to be able to escape. The struggle ended May 27 as the last organized Nationalist resistance collapsed. The great city now belonged to the Asiatic Communists, though built up by Western influence to its modern greatness. No Americans were reported hurt. Shanghai's population quickly accepted the new regime. Students danced and sang party songs in the streets, the Red troops showing model behavior and making a good first impression. At 9 a.m. May 28 the Communist radio announced that Shanghai was now completely "liberated". The Russian consulate in Shanghai next day closed down, inasmuch as Moscow does not recognize the new regime as yet.

JULY 8, 1949

Paris Conference

◆ Representatives of the United States, France, Britain and Russia gathered around the conference table in the Pink Palace at Paris May 23. The talks began on a conciliatory note, the Soviet foreign minister, Andrei Vishinsky, agreeing readily to the agenda proposed by the three Western powers. But before the week was over the conference was deadlocked. Russia wanted all decisions to be unanimous, but the Western powers thought that would be tantamount to imposing a veto on the conference. They offered a plan for German unity, which they proposed be based on the Bonn constitution. But the Soviet wanted to go back to four-power occupation rule for Germany, a proposal which the Western powers immediately turned down. It amounted, in their estimation, to undoing all that had been done to further German recovery, economically and politically, in the Western zones of occupation, where a democratic form of self-government had been set up. Russia wanted huge reparations, in the amount of \$10,000,000,000, to come from current production. The West, which has been putting money into Germany, did not propose to have it drained out by Russia.

East German Charter

◆ The Soviet-sponsored German People's Congress, meeting in

Eastern Germany, (May 30) adopted with but one dissenting vote a constitution which provides for a Volkskammer (people's chamber) and an independent judiciary, which, however, can be dismissed by the Volkskammer. Freedom of citizens is subject to restriction only if such restrictions do not violate the basic principles of the Constitution. The Congress rejected proposals from the Western zones that the Soviet zone join the German Federal Republic under the Bonn constitution. The Congress also approved a manifesto which twenty-two delegates would take to Paris and try to present to the foreign ministers' council there.

New German State

◆ Existence of a new Western German state was proclaimed at Bonn, Germany, May 23. The state is to be known as the Federal Republic of Germany. It takes in about two-thirds of the population of the former German Reich, and half the territory.

Freedom Curb in East Zone

◆ According to a German dispatch of May 30 the Russians have ordered a "full-scale purge" against "recognizable" religious groups in East Germany. The report stated that Jehovah's witnesses were among the groups listed in the order. Radio reports said that a meeting of the witnesses had been raided by the Communist police.

Curbing Freedom in Greece

◆ Orders to "neutralize" (liquidate?) the work of Jehovah's witnesses were issued in mid-May to all the bureaus of the Greek Ministry of Public Security in Greece. Though opposed by Communists elsewhere, in Greece Jehovah's witnesses are accused of being Communists.

In the U. N.

◆ Although Poland's representative tried to inject into the deliberations of the U. N. in mid-May the case of Gerhart Eisler, the General Assembly refused to

take it up. Poland represented the case as one of violation of human rights, international law and political asylum. The Assembly also rejected a resolution that would have permitted the return of ambassadors and ministers from U.N. nations to Franco Spain, where the rich live in great splendor wholly indifferent to the poverty around them, many of the poor even living in damp and filthy caves. The vote to restore Spain to recognition almost carried, however, being only 4 short of the required number. While debate on the disposition of Italy's former colonies in Africa had been sharp, no decision was reached by the U.N. before adjournment on May 18.

Berlin Railway Strike

◆ Demanding pay in Western marks instead of the less valuable Soviet marks, 15,000 West Berlin workers on the Soviet-run railways went on strike in late May. Violence and bloodshed marked the strike in its early stages, four persons being killed and hundreds wounded. Soviet zone police tried to handle the situation by introducing strike-breakers. The Western police followed a policy of "hands off".

Eisler Released

◆ A request from the U.S. government for the extradition of the fugitive Communist Gerhart Eisler was rejected (May 27) on legal grounds, by a London court, and Eisler was released. Arriving in Prague on the 31st Eisler referred to U.S. Attorney General Tom Clark as "America's biggest fool".

Bolivian Tin-Mine Strike

◆ The close of May saw a militant strike in progress at the Huanuni tin mines in Bolivia. Over a hundred dead, including two Americans and several mine executives, was the toll. A detachment of 200 Bolivian troops battled the strikers, and U.S. citizens and other foreigners were evacuated from the area. Railway service was crippled by sympathy strikes.

President Dutra Visits U. S.

◆ The president of Brazil, Eurico Gaspar Dutra, visited the U. S. in May and was welcomed by President Truman May 18 amid pomp and ceremony. It was President Dutra's 64th birthday, and so he was treated to a birthday cake with U. S. and Brazil colors in the icing. It was four feet high. President Truman also led in the singing of "Happy birthday to you". Next day President Dutra addressed Congress, stressing the 120 years of unbroken friendship between Brazil and the U. S. President Truman pledged full U. S. consideration of Brazilian requests for financial aid. President Dutra also was shown a good time in New York before returning to Brazil.

Supreme Court on Free Speech

◆ The U. S. Supreme Court on May 18 by a 5-4 decision reversed the conviction of Arthur W. Terminiello, Catholic priest, on a charge of disorderly conduct arising out of a speech in which he used highly inflammatory language, referring to pickets of his meeting as "snakes", "bedbugs", "slimy scum," "imported from Russia," and other choice names. The result was a riot which included the hurling of brickbats and stenchbombs and the breaking of windows. Terminiello was fined \$100, the conviction being upheld by the Illinois Appellate Court and the Illinois Supreme Court. The U. S. Supreme Court majority held that the ordinance on which the conviction had been based had been construed so as to become an invasion of free speech.

Five-Billion-Dollar

Health Program

◆ Congress was asked May 23 to enact a \$5,600,000,000 compulsory health program for the U. S. The plan was presented to a Senate labor and welfare subcommittee by J. D. Kingsley, acting federal security administrator. He estimated that another \$200,000,000 would be needed for medical care for those on public welfare rolls.

Russia Asked to Return Ships

◆ The U. S. on May 25 once again called on Russia to return 28 frigates and 8 icebreakers that were used as patrol vessels and which were provided on lend-lease during the war. James E. Webb, acting secretary of state, presented the request to the Soviet ambassador at Washington, and also sandwiched in a request to give Arthur Brassard, a priest, a visa to go to Moscow to serve in connection with the Roman Catholic church there.

"SOB" Medal Barred

◆ The House Armed Services Committee on May 19 refused President Truman's military aide, General Vaughan, permission to wear a medal he received from President Perón of Argentina. It was this medal and the controversy arising over it that caused President Truman to say no "a. o. b." was going to tell him what to do about it. The president's hesitancy about using uncouth words was much discussed. Under the law, foreign medals are kept in the State Department until Congress authorizes the recipients to wear them. Fifteen other army officers, who had likewise received Perón medals, were also included in the refusal of permission to wear them. Perhaps Truman will extend his famous abbreviated "three little words" to the House committee also.

Ford Strike Ends

◆ An overwhelming majority of the workers voting to return to their jobs on May 29 ended the 24-day strike against the Ford Motor Company of Detroit. It was agreed to select a man or panel of men, agreeable both to the union and to the company, to study the speed-up work rate, which was the chief subject of controversy.

Lewis Denounced Mine Perils

◆ Testifying before a Senate subcommittee and calling on Congress to approve a bill giving Federal mine inspectors power to shut dangerous mines, John L. Lewis, on May 31, poured out

a mass of statistics. He told the subcommittee that in the last 19 years 1,259,081 miners had been "maimed, mangled and killed". He said, too, that during the first 1½ years of World War II casualties and fatalities in the mines exceeded those in the armed forces.

F. D. Roosevelt, Jr.

◆ In a sweeping victory over two opponents, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., (35) on May 17 won the seat in Congress vacated by the death of Sol Bloom. Meanwhile his wife, Mrs. Ethel du Pont Roosevelt, obtained a divorce at the little town of Minden, Nevada, charging extreme mental cruelty.

U. N. Prayer Room

◆ Officials of the U. N. have decided to install a non-denominational prayer room in the permanent world capital going up in New York city. They are receiving suggestions, and one is that a cubical room be built to symbolize the equality of individuals, nations and religions. Also that a circle of gold be set in the ceiling to symbolize the eternal nature of God and a circle of silver in the floor to represent "the kingdom of God on earth".

Pope Proclaims Holy Year

◆ The pope of Rome on May 26 proclaimed 1950 a "holy year". The bull was read from four of Rome's major basilicas, to which pilgrimages are to be made. The recitation of prescribed prayers for peace and the performance of practices proposed as peculiar to the "holy year", together with "private and public customs on the practical plane", will all be indulgenced. Those unable to come to Rome will be granted equal privileges on other terms. Those who dare to "subtract from or oppose" the contents of the bull, would, said the pope, "incur the wrath of the omnipotent God and of the apostles Peter and Paul."

Czech Archbishop's Warning

◆ The "Most Reverend" Joseph Beran, archbishop of Prague, on

May 24 issued a statement threatening to excommunicate all Roman Catholics collaborating with Czechoslovakia's Communist government against the Roman Catholic Church. He charged that an attempt was being made to set up a "new Catholic church, without its present bishops and its principal head in Rome". It was the most emphatic statement the Czech primate had yet made in the increasingly tense church-state conflict in Czechoslovakia.

Deaths

◆ Four untimely deaths among the world's "great" in late May showed again that man is of but little account. Archbishop Damaskinos of Greece, head of the Greek Orthodox Church, and once regent and premier of Greece, died of a heart attack at his palace May 20. He was 58 years old. Another outstanding public figure ended his life May 22. Former Secretary of Defense Forrestal committed suicide, leaping from a sixteenth-floor window of the National Naval Medical Center. He had just been reading a Greek philosophical book of poetry, in which death was extolled. He was 57. Robert I. Ripley, of "Believe It or Not" fame, died of a heart attack at New York. He was 55. Moving pictures of his making have delighted millions. W. A. Julian, treasurer of the U. S. since 1933, was killed in a head-on automobile collision near Bethesda, Maryland, May 29. His name, though engraved on millions of U. S. dollar bills and other currency, is still but little known.

U. S. Tornadoes

◆ Weather Bureau officials said (May 29) that 96 persons in nine states had been killed by tornadoes this year, many of the tornadoes occurring in May. Damage was estimated at \$10,000,000.

World Population

◆ According to a report (May 26) by the statistical office of the U. N. the total population of the world was approximately 2,320,-

000,000 in 1947, the latest year for which figures are available.

Electric "Brain"

◆ A new kind of calculating machine, which can also translate from one language into another, is being constructed at the U. S. Bureau of Standards Laboratory at California University's Institute of Numerical Analysis. The scientists working on it say it would be possible to make the machine encompass the 80,000 words in the *Webster Collegiate Dictionary* with equivalents in as many as three foreign languages. But the scope of the thing has not been decided upon. There are now calculating machines that are able to multiply two 14-digit numbers and obtain a 28-digit result in 1/50 of a second, but one operator who has worked with them still thinks the machines rather stupid. Another thinks these machines will one day express emotion. We hope it won't be an expression of temper.

Remedy for Arthritis

◆ It was reported at the Seventh International Congress on Rheumatic Diseases, in the Waldorf Astoria hotel, in New York, May 31, that a recently synthesized adrenal hormone has enabled rheumatoid arthritis cripples to walk again, and even to run and dance. The hormone, known heretofore as "Compound E", was named "cortisone" by the discoverer, Dr. E. C. Kendall, chemist of the Mayo Clinic, where the treatments are given. The arthritic disease making the back as stiff as a board has also been treated successfully, according to the report.

Boy or Girl?

◆ The Linda Vista Medical Center (California) on May 23 issued a statement that a chemical test had been discovered which would determine in advance the sex of babies to be born. The test shows blue for boys, pink for girls, which is as it should be of course. The tests have proved about 90-percent correct.

Who Shall Rule?

The issue of world domination is hotly contested among the nations of the world. Rival factions each claim that peace and contentment can come only through the political rule of their administration. They cannot all be right; their statements conflict. Who will be the future rulers of the world?

The political boasts and guesses of existing world governments betray their shortcomings when compared with the predictions of the Bible concerning things which must surely come. God is its author; He knows government from the beginning to the end. So, why longer be troubled with conflicting forecasts of men, when you can know the truth by letting God be true?

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