

MARGINAL NOTES

DEMOCRACY THE POLITY FOR THE NEW AGE. — Current history is demonstrating that Clarence Streit's faith in the establishment of World Unity in the present century is not a utopian dream. In his view the primary movement toward the achievement of that end should be made by the democracies. That has already been done. The book in which Mr. Streit embodied his plea and plan for the unification of all civilized nations was published but a short time before Britain and France took up arms against barbaric Germany for the preservation and advancement of democracy in Europe. France, through the perfidy of some of her politicians and by reason of her military unpreparedness, unhappily fell before the invading hordes of Nazidom. Today the British Empire, bearing alone the brunt of the fight with magnificent courage and effectiveness, is receiving the acclaim of all who are concerned with the maintenance of democracy as a world polity for the New Age now struggling to be born, and are free to express their detestation of totalitarianism as it prevails in Europe.

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AMERICA SPEAKS OUT.—Naturally in the free air of the Western Hemisphere, denunciation of the gangster methods of Hitler and applause for the steadfast bravery of the British people greet the ear in abundant volume. Indeed this may be said to be continuous on the radio. For instance, Dorothy Thompson, the famous American "columnist", speaking over the national net-work of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on July 22nd, paid her disrespects to Herr Hitler in good set terms. Addressing him directly, she said:

In your speech this week, Mr. Hitler, you said that it caused you pain to think that you should be chosen by destiny to deal the death blow to the British Empire. It may well cause you pain. This ancient structure, cemented with blood, is an incredibly delicate and exquisite mechanism, held together lightly now by imponderable elements of credit and prestige, experience and skill, written and unwritten law, codes and habits. This remarkable and artistic thing, the British Empire, part Empire and part Commonwealth, is the only world-wide organization in existence, the world equalizer and equilibrium, the only world-wide stabilizing force for law and order on the planet, and if you bring it down the planet will rock with an earthquake such as it has never known. We in the United States will shake with that earthquake and so will Germany. And the Britons, the Canadians, the New Zealanders, the Australians, the South Africans, are hurling their bodies into the breach to dam the dykes and against world chaos.

After observing that in the present, as in all great struggles for ascendancy, nations become embodied in the men who lead them, Miss Thompson declares: "If Hitler has made himself the incorporation of Germany, Churchill really is the incorporation of Britain."

Having analyzed the difference between the two men in character, mentality, and achievement, she thus concluded her radio address:

When you speak, Churchill, brave men's hearts everywhere rush out to you. There are no neutral hearts, Winston Churchill, except those that have stopped beating. There are no neutral prayers. Our hearts and our prayers say, "God give you strength, God bless you." May you live to cultivate your garden, in a free world, liberated from terror, and persecution, war, and fear.

In the present month another American citizen spoke over the national network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in terms which, unless Hitler is a hopeless lunatic, should give him furiously to think. The speaker was Lawrence Hunt, New York author and lawyer, and his words were intimately addressed to the Canadian people. Mr. Hunt declared that the sober, determined voice of America says "Hitler must go!" Speaking with engaging frankness to his Canadian listeners he said: "Some of you may have doubts about America doing her part as a comrade in arms in this war. To ye of little faith I can only say the major facts show that America is on the march." Continuing he said:

The exchange of American destroyers for naval bases on Empire soil, was accompanied by "no false pride," no face-saving devices, no flag-waving phrases — just a practical example of friendly English-speaking neighbours working smoothly and effectively together. John Bull and Uncle Sam are pulling together as never before. And they are an unbeatable team.

With particular reference to Canada's international sphere of service at the present time, Mr. Hunt observed:

My friends, I am not sure that you fully appreciate what an effective and decisive part Canada is playing in this war. Canada has become, as never before, the mighty bridge of a better understanding and a warmer sense of kinship between the British Empire and the United States. It is given to you to bring about the mightiest and most enduring friendship in the history of nations. You are doing it by word and deed, by your unquenchable loyalty to Britain and by your daily acts of friendship to America.

Enlarging upon the sacrifice involved in Britain's noble effort to halt the onrush of tyranny in the world, he said:

If ever a nation deserved loyalty it is Britain now. She has won such a loyalty as she has never had before—loyalty from her sons and daughters throughout the Empire, from her kinsmen and friends in America, from men and women throughout the world who want to remain or pray to become free. They know that if Britain lives, freedom lives.

In closing his inspiring address, Mr. Hunt paid tribute to Winston Churchill as "the living symbol of the underlying unity of the English-speaking world, a unity which is the best hope for the future of mankind."

"A heroic people and a heroic age need a heroic leader. Such a man is Churchill. When America has hit her stride as you [Canadians] have done, when she has taken her rightful place in the battle line of freedom, then we Americans shall be entitled to take pride that Winston Churchill is our man as well as England's."

Although Miss Thompson and Mr. Hunt spoke only in their capacity as private American citizens there is no doubt that their views are now shared by a controlling number of the people of the United States. It is reasonable to infer that a recognition of this fact induced President Roosevelt to speak in the following firm and vigorous terms in his radio address at Dayton, Ohio, on the 13th of the present month:

No combination of dictator countries of Europe and Asia will stop the help we are giving to almost the last free people fighting to hold them at bay.

Our course is clear. Our decision is made. We will continue to pile up our defence and our armaments. We will continue to help those who resist aggression, and who now hold the aggressors far from our shores.

The men and women of Britain have shown how free people defend what they know to be right. Their heroic defence will be recorded for all time. It will be perpetual proof that democracy, when put to the test, can show the stuff of which it is made.

To accept the words quoted above as spoken by the authentic voice of present-day America is to be convinced that the principles of democracy which dominated the minds, and were enthroned in the hearts, of the pioneer settlers of New England, have become the cherished political heritage of the whole people of the United States. The significance of these quoted words carries us back to the time when the Pilgrim Fathers, before

landing from the "Mayflower" in 1620, set their hands to a formal document in which they declare, "As loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James" that they "do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic for our better ordering; . . . and to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, Acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the community." This agreement has been called the germ of popular government in the Anglo-American world; and serves to show that England, both in fact and in spirit, is the mother-land of what we know now as the American Republic. Never was the case for unity between the mother-land and her American colonies more strongly presented than by Edmund Burke in his speech in the House of Commons on moving the "Resolutions for Conciliation with the Colonies" in 1775. His words are especially worthy of recall at the present time. Here are some of them:

The temper and character which prevail in our colonies are, I am afraid, unalterable by any human art. We cannot, I fear, falsify the pedigree of this fierce people and persuade them that they are not sprung from a nation in whose veins the blood of freedom circulates. An Englishman is the unfittest person on earth to argue another Englishman into slavery. . . . My hold of the colonies is in the close affection which grows from common names, from kindred blood, from similar privileges, and equal protection. These are ties, which, though light as air, are as strong as links of iron. . . . As long as you have the wisdom to keep the sovereign authority of this country as the sanctuary of liberty, the sacred temple consecrated to our common faith, wherever the chosen race and sons of England worship freedom they will turn their faces towards you.

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THE AMERICAN BAR AND THE WAR.—It was to be expected that the present War, and its menace to the United States as well as to the Western Hemisphere at large, would receive attention at the annual convention of the American Bar Association in 1940. The convention was held last month in the City of Philadelphia, and to read the account of the proceedings in the October number of the AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION JOURNAL is to be convinced that the lawyers of the United States, numbering some 160,000, are not only ready to defend their own country against invasion by the Axis powers, but are willing to help the

other nations of the two Americas should they be subjected to similar acts of aggression.

To read the editorial entitled "Salute to the Bar of England" in the number of the journal referred to is to experience a real refreshment of the spirit in this tragic time. It declares that if Westminster Hall is demolished or damaged "every American lawyer will feel the blow, as they have felt the havoc even now being wrought on the cherished Inns of Court. For is Westminster Hall not the cradle of the Common Law, even for us in America?" After reciting other events in history which have bound together the hearts of American and English lawyers, the editorial concludes in the following words: "No one can tell at the moment what the history books will say was the result of the present titanic conflict. But we are sure of one thing: that is what the Future will say about English courage and English spirit. As American lawyers we lift our hats to our Brothers Across the Seas."

* * One of the most interesting events to Canadians on the programme of the convention was the welcome accorded to Leonard W. Brockington, K.C., Delegate of the Canadian Bar Association, whose speech at the formal dinner of the convention is published in full in the present number of the CANADIAN BAR REVIEW. We quote the words of welcome to Mr. Brockington, and the appreciation of his address, as expressed editorially in the current number of the AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION JOURNAL:

The return of Mr. Leonard W. Brockington, K.C., this time as Delegate of the Canadian Bar Association, was warmly welcomed by old and new friends; and his eloquent address, which is published in this issue, stirred the great dinner audience as rarely such assemblages are moved. The eternal verities of liberty under law, and England's deathless contributions to the American heritage, were portrayed with deep earnestness and reality. His close association with the Prime Minister of Canada during the present war gave an especial weight to his message.

We bring to a close this résumé of current events with the remark that in reference to Hitlerism the increasing world cry of the present time is *Écrasez l'infâme* !

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Ottawa.