

The Minidoka IRRIGATOR

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New Frontier to Conquer

The commencement speaker left a challenge for the 1944 graduating class of Hunt high school to meet . . . a challenge in the fields of social and cultural relations.

The builders of our nation faced a frontier filled with forests to be cleared, rivers to cross, cities to build, and means of transportation and communication to be developed. Their's was a geographical frontier to be conquered.

Today, in this "age of revolution" we find a period of rapid changes in communication and transportation, in our social and cultural relations one with the other. Today, the world finds another frontier to conquer—a frontier in the fields of human understanding and brotherhood.

The speaker told the members of the graduating class that Americans of Japanese ancestry have an extra obligation to meet in American democracy.

"You young people face a world seething with social unrest and change; a world beginning to recognize that men must learn how to live together in peace and cooperation if our civilized life is to continue and advance.

"Your part in the American democracy is to so train yourselves and act that other Americans will recognize your abilities as a cooperative unit in aiding in solving the problems for a better world for all."

The speaker left a challenge for all of us to meet—a challenge in which we Americans of Japanese ancestry can play a vital role in the realization of a true democracy.

Vacation and Young People

School is out, and the students, long chained to books and lessons are storming the Outside Employment Office every day to sign up for jobs "Anything to get me outa here."

Employment officers, aware of the danger of such attitudes, are careful to spend time with them and give them a "fair deal."

On the other hand, there are hundreds of young people unable to leave the project for various reasons. For them, the summer, long and sticky, stretched ahead in dreary monotony . . . "No kids, no fun, no nuthin'."

Now the Summer Activity Program has come up. Camping, hiking, picnics, swim-

E. P. Smith:

ming, ball games, "scouting, field trips, sewing and cooking classes are included. Gardening, landscaping, dramatics, music, dancing, typing, shorthand, first aid, arts and tournaments are also listed.

Conscious of the danger of youthful energy routed elsewhere, Community Activities, Education division, and the church groups have drawn up the program . . . "No red tape, no core, no forcing."

It's the original answer to a prayer and the kids won't let it stand alone.

In a banner-waving mood, we might even say it was what "saved our youth" . . . no telling.

On Flag Day

Flag Day has a greater meaning this year as the Old Glory stands side by side with the flags of Great Britain, Russia and other, allied nations in this world crisis. The anticipation of Father's Day and the hustle bustle of Fourth of July has somehow blurred the national holiday on June 14.

It is interesting to note that the word flag comes from the Anglo-Saxon "fleogan" meaning to float, to fly, in the wind, and has the same meaning in English, Swedish, Danish, German and Dutch.

There was a time when all five nations interpreted the flag as a monarchy, people thrived on it and loved and lived in peace. But modern times has changed one of the nations to a dictatorship, and forced three others to bow to its ruling, and left one powerful English speaking body standing, but not alone. Interpretations of the flag has changed; one side is fighting to keep it changed, the other is battling to preserve the original.

Flag Day is observed on June 14, honoring the birth of the American flag in 1777. President Wilson said on Flag Day, 1914, "It (the Flag) is henceforth to stand for self possession and dignity, for the assertion of the right of one nation to serve the other nations of the world—an emblem that will not condescend to be used for purposes of aggression and self-aggrandizement; that is too great to be debased by selfishness; that has vindicated its right to be honored by all nations of the world and feared by none who do righteousness."

That is the interpretation of the flag as we know it, and are fighting for.

LaGuardia Bridles Again . . .

New York's sputtering little Mayor LaGuardia has brewed himself another kettle of hot water—this time by his reported opposition to a proposed resettlement of American citizens of Japanese ancestry in his bailiwick. Several organizations have written him boiling protests, the mildest of which, from the Citizens Union, expressed that group as being "surprised and disturbed" at this stand.

The question of whether we shall treat loyal citizens of Japanese blood more harshly than those of German descent came up immediately after Pearl Harbor, and it is still with us. Nothing has happened to change the obvious answer.

On outbreak of the war, the Japanese had to be segregated, for military reasons and for their own safety, until the dependables could be sorted out. Those with clean slates were released and are entitled to fair public treatment. They had nothing to do with the nationality of the stork that brought them and nothing to do with Pearl Harbor and other Japanese crimes. If we ostracize them, we are simply subscribing to another version of the racial myth which already has done enough harm.

—St. Louis Globe-Democrat, May 5, 1944.