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Twilight of the Kings Unless They Get Busy!

Royalties Must Brave Death to Save Thrones

By HELEN ESSARY  
Central Press Columnist

WASHINGTON—When I was very young and read the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen I believed that kings and princes were brave and wise. They were god-like people who inspired the loyalty of their subjects by their own courage and leadership. They were rulers because they were men of fine quality.

When an enemy galloped across the border, the king or one of his strong, young, princely sons rode forth at the head of his warriors, and tried to drive back the invader. The safety of his people was the personal responsibility of the sovereign.

I have been brooding over this early conception of kingship and its duties and I have decided that it needs to be revived seriously in the post-war world.

Most of the kings of this war-wracked era are not worth their salt. Much less their vitamin tablets and spotty ermine. Most of them instead of eagerly embracing their responsibility to the subjects who keep them in royal purple palaces have run away from that responsibility.

Nevertheless, royalty may yet redeem itself. At this very hour, almost, frightened princelings may show that royal blood has yet a few red corpuscles in its thinning stream. How? You ask.

This is the answer—a prince of every royal house should be in the front line of the army of invasion now gathering for combat. A prince or, better, a king should take actual physical part in the redemption of his own country. He should pray and plan that he may recover some of that old spirit that set plumed monarchs off on charging steeds to fight the foe.

Where are the kings and princelings of Europe? Mostly they are scattered about in unpolished spots bought with the money received from the subjects who are doing the fighting for them.

King George of England has remained in England. This is what he should have done. He deserves credit for remaining only by comparison with the kings who have fled. Prince Christian of Denmark has also remained in his own country. Now is the moment for him to step out ahead of his men, not wait until the way has been made safe. This should be the aim also of Leopold of the Belgians, still in Belgium.

Prince Bernhard, husband of Juliana, heiress to the throne of the Netherlands, has said he would soon be back in Holland. Excellent! He should already have prepared himself to fight with the invaders in some capacity. Prince Olaf of Norway, who will some day succeed his father, King Haakon, is a famous yachtsman. Even in this country he has won trophies as a sailor. How splendid if he should use his knowledge of seamanship in guiding the fleet that must drive the enemy out of his father's fjords.

King George of Greece, who fought against Italy, is now in Cairo. He should be arranging to go back to his own country with the first detachment of his own people. The place of Italy in the world is not too much admired after its change of heart and ammunition in the present war. Victor Emmanuel is too old to fight, but his son, Umberto, is not too old to fight. The king himself might make character for his country by at least being in the danger zone. He is now in southern Italy, being looked after.

It doesn't please me especially to realize that young American soldiers are giving their lives to rescue the countries whose rulers are living in comfort. Otto of Austria and his lively brothers should be doing something to restore the faith of the world in the right of the Hapsburgs to exist.

Juan, pretender to the Spanish throne and son of the late King Alfonso, is now in Switzerland. There's another Spanish pretender, Xavier, scouting around somewhere. Here are two strong boys either of whom might advance his cause further by getting into the thick of the battle rather than by advising for the big day.

Peter of Yugoslavia is in Cairo—out of danger. He was at the front with the air forces of his own country. Carol of Rumania instead of hiring a press agent to get him out of Mexico across the border and behind the safe walls of the United States might better advertise his own desirability by going home to Rumania with a gun on his shoulder.

The four sons of the Roosevelt have been in battle dress. So has Mr. Roosevelt himself in his fight across enemy lines. Mrs. Roosevelt has gone into danger. Obviously there is never good stuff in the steeled leaders of a democracy then in the stewards of kingdoms.



NAZI ROCKET GUNS IN ACTION



THESE THREE night views of the Nazi rocket guns being fired along the invasion coast were taken from a captured German film just released by the War Department. Each gun, say Nazi officials, has fire-power equal to six heavy howitzers. News of the Day Newsreel. (International)

Rubber Plants Expected To Hit Peak Capacity

HOUSTON, Tex. (UPI)—Synthetic rubber plants in Harris County, which turned out an estimated 18,000 tons of Buna-S after beginning operations in 1932, are expected to produce at capacity of 60,000 tons in 1944.

Attainment of the goal, however, qualified spokesmen said will depend on production of butadiene, three parts of which are combined with one part of styrene to make Buna-S.

Styrene comes from chemical plants already in operation at Freeport and Texas City. Butadiene for the two synthetic rubber plants will be supplied eventually by Gulf Coast refineries of the Humble Oil and Refining company and the Sinclair Refining company.

Humble's butadiene unit has been completed, but Sinclair's is still under construction. Thus far, according to reports, all butadiene used by the Goodrich and Goodrich synthetic plants has been shipped through tank car shipments from out-of-state.

Another Harris county program, not so far advanced as the Buna-S development, is for production of butyl rubber. Scientists hope that this type of synthetic rubber can be used in manufacture of good inner tubes and other products for which Buna-S is unsuited.

Health Officer Warns of Danger From Influenza

AUSTIN, Tex.—Commenting on the fact that there were approximately 25,000 cases of flu reported in Texas last week, Dr. Geo. W. Cox, State Health Officer, said today that there is no way to estimate the number of additional cases not attended by physician, therefore not reported.

Dr. Cox urged every Texan to do his utmost to protect himself and his family from the dangers of influenza and its possible complications and stressed the fact that it is not a disease to be regarded lightly.

"It is a serious mistake to try to fight flu, on your feet. Complete bed rest, lots of liquids, a light diet, and treatment prescribed by a competent physician are the steps most necessary to early recovery," Dr. Cox said.

"Pneumonia is a frequent complication of influenza, and with vitality low from the effects of flu, pneumonia can be an unusually serious menace," Dr. Cox said.

The State Health Officer said that avoiding undue exposure to cold, wet weather, maintaining good ventilation, obtaining sufficient sleep and eating a nourishing, well balanced diet will aid in building up physical resistance and may help to ward off influenza. If, in spite of these precautions, fever, bone ache, and other flu symptoms appear, the patient should go to bed immediately and consult his family physician.

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