

THE
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JUNE



1938



SHOW YOUR COLORS



FLAG DAY! The United States Flag Association has just published a pamphlet, "Your Flag and Mine: Its Message," which is described as a "bit of Americanism TNT that blasts Communism, Nazism and Facism. We strongly urge all posts of J.W.V., and all comrades and sisters to not only procure copies themselves, but aid in distributing it to millions of homes throughout the country.

J.W.V. is starting a national movement to have June 14th made a Legal Holiday. Let's start this movement at home. Does your post have a set of colors, which it can proudly display on Flag Day and all other patriotic holidays? If not, the time to order is NOW!

INDEPENDENCE DAY will soon be on us. That means more parades, and more Showing of Colors! Show your patriotism by parading in full military dress—uniforms, caps, colors. Our supply houses were swamped with orders, which they could not fill for Memorial Day, because you sent orders in late. Don't wait with your orders and be sorry. Send them in NOW.

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Old Glory Speaks.....

The Meaning of the Stars and Stripes

By COL. JAMES A. MOSS, President General, United States Flag Association

WHEN the people of the Colonies were defending their liberties against the might of kings, it was from the design set in the heavens that they chose their banner, with its stars in their field of blue and its stripes of red and white, remindful of the hope and promise of the rainbow. When the Continental Congress in 1777 resolved "that the Flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation," it gave expression to the very soul of the American Flag, for in the words "thirteen stars white in a blue field representing a new constellation" were signalled to humanity the birth of the first nation on earth dedicated to the personal and religious liberty of mankind, a nation founded on the eternal principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity.

The Flag is not only an emblem of the country but in its own way a history of the nation. When we have learned what its symbols and colors signify, we are able to read its stirring story. The red proclaims the courage always shown by men and women of our race. The white stands for personal and religious liberty. The blue represents loyalty. The thirteen stripes symbolize the Thirteen Original Colonies. And each star records a great event in the history of our country, the story of a sovereign state which entered the Union.

Whether floating up yonder, waving in a parade or hanging on the walls of our homes, wherever it is, our Flag speaks to him who listens.

"I represent the Declaration of Independence," says the Flag, "that immortal document whose adoption marked the birth of the first nation in the history of the world dedicated to the personal and religious liberty of mankind; that great creed of self-governed freemen, which, for the first time in the annals of humanity, proclaimed belief in the equality of man, faith in the people to govern themselves and through self-government realized man's hope for a better, fuller and happier life; faith in the value and possibilities of the common man.

"This proclamation," adds the Flag, "is the greatest gift mankind has ever received. It has stirred men and women the world over. After centuries of strife and struggle to have a voice in his own government, it strengthened the heart of man. It renewed his courage. It inspired him with greater confidence in himself. It gave mankind new hope.

"I stand for the Constitution of the United States," says the Flag, "that great title deed of human liberty which guarantees equality of opportunity, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press—the freedom of which man first began to

This moving tribute to the American Flag and to the ideals for which it stands is by one of the country's leading military authorities, a veteran of three wars and the founder, organizer and volunteer head of the United States Flag Association, the principle activities of which have been to combat the alien isms which are the antithesis of all that the Stars and Stripes represent.

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dream and long for, to fight and struggle for, to suffer and sacrifice for, way back in the dim centuries when, under the lash, the Hebrews were being sold and enslaved to Egyptian masters. The human and property rights," continues the Flag, "embodied in the Constitution of the United States, which has rightly been called 'the greatest heritage that has fallen to any single people,' are guaranteed you and your family to help you achieve the happiness which all human beings seek and pursue.

"In creating the Republic of the United States of America, of which I am the symbol," says the Flag, "our forefathers gave the world a new philosophy of government, with these three great fundamental principles: (1) the government exists for the benefit of the people; (2) the powers of government arise and abide in the people themselves, and (3) all men are equal in the eyes of the law and entitled to the same opportunities of life. It is the philosophy of government—the 'American system'—under which America, formerly an agricultural country of minor importance, has become the leader of the world in commerce and industry.

"As I wave exultantly over this great and wonderful country of ours," says the Flag, "I bring to you, my people, this message: As glorious as has been America's past, greater will be her future—the future of the greater America. With our fabulous riches in lands, forests, oil, minerals and other natural resources still only partially developed, and the developing agencies of modern science in their infancy; with the amazing industrial inventiveness of our people, their unconquerable spirit, their invincible determination and their indomitable courage; with the nation still in the prime of youth—America's golden age is yet to come.

"Inconceivable in magnitude, we have ahead of us the greatest era of abundance and prosperity ever known to mankind, if we but chart our course according to the ideals and principles embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution—the ideals and principles on which are based the American system of government

and which have made America great. There is no limit to the position of greatness and happiness the nation may reach if we travel in the channel of Americanism, steering clear of the shoals of Communism, Fascism, Nazism and other alien experimental philosophies of government whose worth is not yet proved, and some of whose features are repellent to the American's inborn love of personal liberty, freedom of religion and freedom of speech. If Communists," says the American Flag, "wish to wave the Red banner and sing the 'Internationale,' that is their business. If Fascists desire to fly the Fascist colors and sing 'Giovinezza,' that is their affair. If Nazis want to display the Swastika flag and sing the 'Horst Wessel Lie,' let them do so—but let them keep out of America and let us Americans continue to wave the Stars and Stripes and sing 'The Star Spangled Banner!'"

Thus speaks the Flag, the symbol of all we are, all we hope to be; the badge of America's greatness and the emblem of her destiny; the token of the ideals and aspirations of our ancestors whose struggles and sacrifices, in peace and in war, have made America great; the symbol of the nation's amazing progress and epic achievements. Thus speaks the Flag, the only bond we have which unites every American to every other—high and low, rich and poor, black and white, Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Gentile.

In these days of worldwide turmoil and uncertainty when Communistic, Nazistic and Fascistic forces, with their Red flags, Swastika banners and Fascistic emblems are striving to discredit and destroy our country's ideals and institutions, it is important all loyal Americans should display their Flag, which symbolizes those ideals and institutions, on every appropriate occasion. Therefore, on Flag Day, June 14th, let us all display the Stars and Stripes in homes, businesses and offices, on our cars and on our garments. Let us carry it in our hearts. Thus we shall give expression of our love of country, our faith in its ideals and institutions and our determination to guard and protect them.

On Flag Day let us rededicate ourselves to the nation. With united hearts let us stand for an America which no man can corrupt. With colors flying let us demonstrate to the world that as regards Americanism the American people are solidly united in sentiment and in purpose. Let us on that day display Old Glory as the flag under which we are proud and happy to live. Let us proudly display the Stars and Stripes as our answer to the challenge of the Communistic, Nazistic and Fascistic forces that are leaving no stone unturned to discredit and destroy that glorious banner. Let us show OUR colors!

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Definitely Concerned

At a time when the Nazis seem to be having things all their own way in Europe they suffered a series of important setbacks in this country which demonstrate that the American people are at last aroused to the Nazi menace. Representative Hamilton Fish has introduced a bill in Congress to prohibit the creation of "private armies" and the wearing of uniforms by private political groups, a measure aimed at the Nazis. The House of Representatives has approved Representative Dies resolution to investigate all un-American activities and propaganda. On the complaint of Roy P. Monahan, New York State Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, six officials of the organization operating the Nazi camp at Yaphank, Long Island, have been indicted on a charge of violating the state civil rights law. In a number of Long Island and upstate New York towns the authorities have banned Nazi parades and demonstrations. And in New York City a Federal grand jury is hearing evidence of a far-flung Nazi spy plot against the United States. In Brazil a Nazi-inspired coup-d'etat against the Vargas government was frustrated. Efforts of the German government to get helium gas in this country were blocked by Secretary of the Interior Ickes who refused to allow the sale on the ground that the gas might have military value. At the same time a bill requiring propaganda representatives of foreign governments to register with the State Department was approved by the House of Representatives and is now in the Senate with the favorable recommendation of the Foreign Relations Committee.

The happenings of the last month show that we are at least aroused to the Nazi menace within our borders. President Roosevelt voiced what is in the minds of all Americans at this time when, in his message to the B'nai Brith convention, he said: "In the conflict of policies and political principles which the world witnesses today this nation remains unshaken in its devotion to the ideals and the institutions of democracy. Except insofar as we de-

Scotching a Lie

If Baron Munchausen were alive today he would have to step aside as the king of liars in favor of those who are disseminating what will come to be known as the greatest canard of the century, to wit, that all Jews are Communists and that all Communists are Jews. This amazing fraud, which is being used to enmize the public against the Jew, has been exposed so often that its persistence can only be explained on the ground that a lie once launched is difficult to catch up with.

We refer to it again now because of a resolution adopted last month at the triennial convention of B'nai Brith, which has lodges in some 50 countries and which is the largest Jewish organization of a non-Zionist character in the world. Action on the resolution followed a report by Sigmund Livingston, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League, in which he cited facts and figures showing that Jews are not Communists and do not promote Communism. He pointed out that the leaders of Communism in America are Earl Browder, William Z. Foster, Clarence Hathaway, James Ford, Robert Minor, William Paterson, Harry Haywood, Max Bedacht and Ella Reeve Bloor, not a single one of whom is a Jew. Taking cognizance of the allegations that David Dubinsky and Sidney Hillman are Communists, Livingston proved that both had fought Communism in their respective labor organizations and are opponents of it, and then emphasized that even if either were a Communist, which he is not, it would no more justify the accusation against Jewry than the fact that Browder and Hathaway were born of Protestants justifies charging Protestantism with Communism.

One or two other facts adduced by Livingston are worth mentioning. He produced statistics showing that before Hitler came to power in Germany the Communists polled

ill treatment of human beings anywhere the domestic policies of other nations are of no concern to the United States. When, however, alien influences seek to undermine the foundations of our institutions we become definitely concerned."

Make Flag Day a Holiday

The three most cherished possessions of the American people are the Declaration of Independence, the Federal Constitution and the Stars and Stripes. The anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is our greatest national holiday. Constitution Day, September 17th, is not yet a legal holiday, although it is beginning to be more and more widely celebrated. Flag Day, June 14th, the anniversary of the adoption by the Continental Congress in 1777 of the Stars and Stripes as our national emblem, is even less widely observed.

We are of the opinion that the forthcoming national J. W. V. encampment in Detroit could render a great patriotic service by initiating a movement to make Flag Day

just under 6,000,000 votes while German Jewry numbered only 550,000, of which not more than 200,000 were eligible to vote. In this connection it ought to be noted that in 1936 the Communist party in New York was ruled off the ballot because it didn't poll 50,000 votes in the preceding election. There are some 2,000,000 Jews in New York. Livingston also quoted a recently received letter from Vladimir Lebedev, minister of the navy under the Russian provisional government of Kerensky in 1917 and who left Russia when the Bolsheviks came into power. Lebedev branded the charge that Bolshevism is created by Jews a lie, holding the Nazis responsible for it. "In Bolshevism," Lebedev wrote, "there never was, nor is there now, anything especially Jewish," and he added that the charge that Bolshevism is dominated by Jews "is stupid and harmful." From time to time we shall cite other pertinent facts in refutation of this despicable lie.

The resolution of the B'nai Brith convention declared as follows: "The great masses of the Jewish people are faithful to the religious teachings of their fathers. Judaism is a part of their life. In it they find consolation and hope. They believe in its precepts and its prophecies. Russian Communism has fought unremittingly against the religious faith of the Jew. A Communist who was a Jew is now an apostate. Communism would destroy religious faith. If Communism were to rule, it would destroy both Judaism and Christianity. There are some Communists who were born Jews, just as there are Communists who were born Protestants and Catholics, but it is unjust for this reason to accuse either one of these religious sects with the responsibility of Communism."

The next time some one tells you Jews are Communists and vice versa throw the above-cited facts and resolution in his teeth.

a national holiday. Only last month President Roosevelt signed a bill making Armistice Day a national holiday. To all veterans November 11th is a day of poignant memory but certainly no man who fought under the Stars and Stripes and who risked his for it will deny that the natal day of the flag ought also to be marked by a national holiday.

Of course Flag Day is now the occasion for all sorts of patriotic exercises but we believe that it ought to be observed on a nation-wide scale. We believe that in tribute to the late Benjamin Altheimer, the man who was responsible for the popularization of Flag Day and who was an honorary member of J. W. V., the encampment ought to adopt a resolution memorializing Congress and the President to set aside June 14th as a national holiday. And J. W. V. ought to go one step further and make June 14th the occasion for an annual Americanization program in all posts. Let us take the lead in making June 14th a real patriotic occasion.

He Popularized Flag Day.....

.....In Memory of Ben Altheimer

By PAUL SEELY

THIS year's observance of Flag Day on June 14th, the 161st anniversary of the adoption by the Continental Congress in 1777 of the Stars and Stripes as our national emblem, will be the first in more than a quarter of a century in which the man who, more than anyone else, was responsible for the gradual popularization of June 14th as Flag Day will be missing. That man was Ben Altheimer, an immigrant Jew who came here from Darmstadt, Germany, seventy years ago, and who passed away on April 30th at the age of 88.

For some strange reason the histories of the American Flag do not mention Altheimer's part in promoting the celebration of Flag Day. In 1889 the day was marked by patriotic exercises in a free kindergarten for the poor in New York City. Not long after the New York Legislature passed a law instructing the state superintendent of public schools to prepare a program making special provision for observance in the schools of Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays, Memorial Day and Flag Day. In 1897 the governor of New York issued a proclamation ordering the display of the flag over all public buildings. Four years earlier the mayor of Philadelphia had done likewise. But none of these occasions were city-wide celebrations of Flag Day, the first of which was held in St. Louis in 1912 with Altheimer as the prime mover.

Altheimer had come to St. Louis in 1874, after living in Memphis for six years. He became widely known in St. Louis in 1878, when yellow fever was prevalent in the South. It was he who started a movement for the relief of the sufferers and was appointed by the mayor of St. Louis as chairman of a committee of three to take charge of a relief program for the afflicted Southern cities. For more than 40 years Altheimer was one of St. Louis' leading citizens.

The idea of making Flag Day a national holiday came to him in 1912 while visiting in San Antonio, Texas. Invited to witness the flag retreat exercises at Fort Sam Houston, he was so deeply impressed with the ceremony that when he returned to St. Louis he initiated the movement that culminated in Flag Day. He laid his plans before civic and religious leaders and they welcomed it enthusiastically. It was a great occasion in St. Louis. That first public observance of the day was celebrated in two churches. In one, St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church, a special children's service was held, attended by the children of Temple Israel Sabbath School too. At the Second Presbyterian Church a Flag Day service was held for adults, and the speakers there included Altheimer.

Flag Day this year is celebrated for the first time since 1912 without the presence of our comrade, the late Ben Altheimer, who was the father of Flag Day. Mr. Seely tells the story of Altheimer's role in popularizing June 14th as Flag Day.

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After presenting a silk flag to the church, Altheimer made a speech which is as timely today as it was 26 years ago. Among other things, he said, "America is a land where unity and fraternity have assumed their noblest aspect; where man stands for what

he is; where the pursuit of happiness is the privilege of every one and where the practice of religion according to one's conscience is a virtue. The American Flag stands for the world's greatest apostle of freedom, for America is the leader in the vanguard of humanity. These are ideals expressed by the American Flag."

The news of the St. Louis celebration was reported in the press throughout the country. Within two years Altheimer's idea had caught on and similar celebrations were being organized in many other cities. By 1915 Flag Day was almost nationwide, spreading from state to state. In 1916 the governors of many states issued special proclamations calling upon the people to show their loyalty to the national emblem by displaying it on their homes, business premises and public buildings.

The late United States Senator Spencer of Missouri had been interested in Flag Day by Altheimer, and through Spencer the movement was called to the attention of President Wilson. In 1916 he became the first President to issue a Flag Day proclamation. In 1917, Wilson took advantage of Flag Day to justify the declaration of war against Germany on April 6th.

Altheimer's great ambition was to have June 14th established as a legal holiday in every state of the Union. As yet it is not a legal holiday anywhere, although its observance is nationwide. In 1927, on the occasion of the sesquicentennial of the adoption of the flag, the American Flag Association presented Altheimer with the Cross of Honor and a citation hailing him "for implanting the appreciation of the colors in the hearts of the American people." He was elected to honorary membership in the Jewish War Veterans of the United States at the 1934 national encampment for the same patriotic service.

And so on the eve of Flag Day let us remember that it is to Benjamin Altheimer, an immigrant youth who found in this country the freedom he longed for, that we owe the national celebration of our flag's birthday. There is something supremely inspiring in the eloquent and moving tribute expressed by Altheimer in his own summation of the purpose of Flag Day. "Our flag," he said, "is the most sacred thing we have. It is not just a piece of cloth to be hauled up and down on occasions, but it stands for the highest attributes of peace, peace, progress and humanity. We should all be thankful that we live under the protection of our government and the American Flag."

What a striking affirmation of the love which Americans by adoption and choice have for their country and its flag is the high-minded patriotism that moved Benjamin Altheimer to father Flag Day.

Constitutional Convention

The time and place of the Constitutional Convention have been changed due to the previous date falling on Shavuoth. The Convention will be held at the President Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey, on Saturday, June 11th and Sunday, June 12th. The Department of New Jersey Convention will be held at the same time and place, and if delegates bring their families, they will be assured of a splendid week-end.

Each post is entitled to select ONE delegate and ONE alternate to represent the post and vote at the Convention. The name of the delegate and alternate should be sent to National Headquarters immediately, and in addition they should be given credentials signed by the Commander and Adjutant of the post.

The Committee, of which Fred Harris of Connecticut and J. David Delman of New York are co-chairmen, will have a preliminary meeting at Natl. Hqrs. on June 8th. Suggestions for change or improvement of the Constitution and by-laws should be sent to them before that date. Very important changes will undoubtedly be made. Every post will be heard. Those on the West Coast and distant points who find it inconvenient to send delegates are urged to send their recommendations to the Committee. The Committee will again assemble in Atlantic City, on Friday, June 10th, to receive suggestions and recommendations.

Be sure that YOUR post is represented at this very important Convention.