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HAVE THE GOBLINS GOT US?

A first step of those seeking conquest has always been putting a scare into their opponents "The Goblins will get you if you don't watch out." There is never a political campaign, never a cause, never an inter-national situation, never a crisis, never a thing which we view with alarm, that we do not ^{run} the gamut of fear all the way from apprehension to the point where the blood runs cold and the hair stands on end.

Until two decades ago we were limited to the spoken and written word for carrying on our terrorizing campaigns, but Marconi changed all that. The perfect medium for scaring people out of their wits has been found in the radio, and how it has worked! Never there has been by private or government interests such exploitation of a medium as men and nations have been making of the radio. In the name of entertainment even they filled the air with pictures of the frightful things happening in the world. Tune in and a woman shrieks as a gangster holds a revolver to her breast while a second sticks a knife into the husband at her side. Turn the button to

escape and a deep and ghastly voice pictures a man being put into his grave, a victim of coma, but knowing all that is going on and from his coffin he tells us how he feels about it, up to the point when you hear the dirt shoveled in - a living death - you can't escape.

Unquestionably the most terrible scare a single human being has ever given the world was that given over the radio last September by Adolf Hitler. It was the voice and the words of a maniac, and the only amazement of the shivering listener was that the man did not fall into convulsions, that he did not is proff enough, I take it, that his explosive and violent threats were calculated to a nicety - planned with devilish skill to fit the gulable and jitory world, he knew to be listening to him. He had been working up his plan for scaring us into paralysis for many months. He knew the moment had arrived when he could do it. And do it he did. // Isn't it time we came to our senses, stop accepting as realities that which can only come about if a certain train of events is realized. We listen to the eloquent commentators on international affairs making their forecasts. We over-look their soft medaled "ifs", accept their ^{loud medaled} highly lighted prophesies "If the Germans", says the commentator, "secure territory on the West coast of Africa, if they settle on the West coast of South

America, if they are joined there by the Japanese, they will out off England and the United States from the world's avenues of trade and in short order we shall be reduced to servitude."

We forget all the "ifs" that have gone into this picture, scared into hysteria we go about saying that the Germans are on the West coast of Africa, of South America, that the Japanese have joined them there, that the combination is armed with ten thousand latest model bombing planes, and we go about screaming, "Do something, do something now or all is lost." What a perfect temper for Mr. Orson Welles and his Martians.

One of the most unjustified and unintelligent forms that are national scare has taken is the philosophy of despair with which we ^{have been teaching} ~~are greeting~~ the youth of the country. "No more frontiers," we tell them. "No more opportunities" - nothing to do but seek support from the state." That is, what we have been telling them for the last few years is ~~not~~ that the goblins will get them if they don't watch out, but that the goblins have got them and that there is nothing to do about it.

It is not true and we know it is not true when we get down to cases. What seems to have happened is that the hard and perplexing times we have been going through have under-mined our morale, taken away our faith ~~and~~ self-respect and self-help, under-mined ~~the~~ notions of American democracy

which has made this country what it is.

What youth needs to meet the present economic perplexities is not scaring, but rousing exhortations to find something to do, to get down to work. These cries of despair, this talk of closed frontiers, and no opportunity, is chilling the creative impulse in youth, turning their natural daring to sterile caution. It is encouraging the fatal idea that it is useless to train, to prepare.

The encouraging thing which we should grasp and to which we should hold tight is that a multitude of youth ~~As~~ not accepting the hope^{can}fulness of ^{men}its elders. Education and training is what ^{they get}it is after in a mass formation such as we never before have seen. Their most justified complaint is that they can't get enough of real discipline and training and yet we go on trying our best to scare them from taking what they can get. It is a dastardly business. In one of several sensible talks which Bruce Barton gave in the last political campaign he charged that we were turning a young confident people into a tired and timid old people. I don't believe myself that youth is going to consent that this be done, that in any large numbers they are going to listen long to counsels of despair.

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Nothing is more important at the present moment in this country than to stop talking about closed frontiers, stop conjuring up hobgoblins and preparing bomb proof shelters in which to escape them.

We need all our courage, all our common sense, all our abilities and resources to handle the present situation. It is full of dangers, but if we are controlled and patient enough, take time to see just what these dangers are, refuse to be scared by them we are capable of meeting and controlling whatever comes.