

THE

NEW ENGLAND

SOCIAL STUDIES

BULLETIN



September 1944

Editorial

Peace-making, Yesterday and
Today

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Three of the pieces in this issue stress in one way or another the ethical responsibility of teachers in relation to tomorrow's world, and a fourth deals with plans for a better world society.

Now in any discussion of the future America or of America's role in the world one must take into account the attitude of the millions of men in the services, who are now mute. One gathers from magazine advertisements that they long to return to hamburgers, fluffy blankets, stream-lined plumbing and ice cream, but there is little indication of their attitude on larger issues. From the evidence of previous war generations, however, we must be prepared to expect from them a large measure of cynicism and indifference. This expectation was reenforced recently by a letter from a reflective 21-year-old Marine Sergeant, now in the Pacific. We publish the following extracts, even though they seem like a Bronxian commentary on our contributors, simply because they make articulate what may be a widespread frame of mind:

"I'm now by way of being what *you* would call an imperialist. I think self-preservation requires a modicum of imperialism from us, in the Pacific, in Asia possibly, and in South America, I hope not in Europe. . . .

"The surge of Good Neighbor policies, the efforts of the Rockefeller office in recent years to convince us that we are natural friends and allies and common-brothers with the rest of the Americas is a lot of bilge and wishful thinking. . . .

"The Atlantic Charter—a piece of nonsense anyway — is so full of holes that it resembles a sieve. We are fighting in half the world as the foe of oppression, and in the other half as an ally of the oppressors, restoring British rule in the Solomons and Dutch in New Guinea. . . .

"We are incapable of the necessary realism to deal with Russia on a sane basis. . . .

"Writing in an American idiom and of an American scene, these authors (Farrell, Dos Passos, O'Hara, Cain, et al.) discover (in American

city life) no ethics, no morality, nothing but an arid waste of crime, violence, frustration, and shifty behavior . . . a general trend which can result only in a native brand of fascism before many years have passed. . . .

"It is the artist's or at least the observer's viewpoint that I must cultivate in the period that lies ahead . . . All political idealism has become repugnant. . . ."

There it is. This is what we may have to cope with in class and out when the military victory is won.

We regret to announce the resignation of Mr. Mark Emerson from the position of Corresponding Editor. Mr. Emerson has accepted the position of Registrar at Friends' Central School, Overbrook, Pa. We are glad, however, to announce the addition to our staff of Miss Helen R. Merry, long an active member of one of the parent societies.

Set aside December 9 for the fall meeting of The New England Association of Social Studies Teachers, to be held in Boston in conjunction with the annual meeting of the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The following compose our Membership Committee:

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