

X - 78 - 89. The Nation, December 16, 1944 - Letter to the Editor
by H.H. Chang and Miss Smedley's reply.

even state the problem. The houses in this country cannot be divided into two categories—slums and not slums. There is a gradation from the meanest hovel to costly palaces. As our country progresses, our housing will continue to improve through the years as it has in the past. No one can take a city map and indicate accurately the so-called slum areas. A cheap, poor house may be clean and tidy. The fact that someone lives in a house indicates that it has utility. We should go slow in destroying automobiles, houses, or anything else of value. The construction of new houses should not be contingent on the destruction of existing houses.

Slum clearance is a popular slogan, for everyone would like to see poor houses replaced with better ones. But the slogan is deceptive, for those who use it usually refer to something else, namely, public housing. I do not believe that government should finance, build, own, or operate residential properties, except as this may be necessary in certain areas as a war-time measure. Public housing projects do not pay their share of local taxes; they are rented on a discriminatory basis to favored groups; and the tenants are subsidized by taxpayers, many of whom live in poorer houses than those occupied by the subsidized tenants. There is an area in which a city government can work to improve and beautify the city, but in my opinion, this area does not include the construction and ownership of residential property.

There are those who believe in socialized agriculture, socialized medicine, socialized insurance, socialized housing, etc. I do not belong to this school of thought. I believe that private enterprise will be more effective than public enterprise in raising living standards. Private enterprise can build houses more cheaply than government. But private enterprise cannot, like government, make up for losses by levying taxes or by printing money.

JOHN W. SCOVILLE,
Economist for the Chrysler Corporation
Detroit, Mich., November 30

A Few Remarks

Dear Sirs: May I offer a few remarks on Agnes Smedley's review of my book "Chiang Kai-shek, Asia's Man of Destiny," which you published on August 26?

One of the points Miss Smedley raised was what she calls Chiang Kai-shek's "appeasement of Japan." Throughout

the book I took pains to explain how a nation like China, which was so unprepared for war, could put up the most effective resistance only when it had established complete internal political unity. That was why Chiang delayed, trading, as he said, "space for time." That was part of his embracing and masterly strategy, which I used a whole chapter to expound (chapter 37). Let me further quote a few sentences from Chiang's speech on July 17, 1937: "While there was the slightest hope for peace, we would not abandon it; so long as we had not reached the limit of endurance, we would not talk lightly of sacrifice. . . . There is only one thing to do when we reach the limit of endurance: we must throw every ounce of energy into the struggle for our national existence and independence. When that is done, neither time nor circumstances will permit our stopping midway to seek peace. . . . Once that stage is reached, we can only sacrifice and fight to the bitter end." Less than a fortnight later, after the Japanese occupied Peiping and Tientsin, Chiang issued another message in which he said: "Now we have reached the point when we can endure it no longer; we will give way no more. The whole nation must rise like one man and fight these Japanese bandits until we have destroyed them and our own life is secure." And so China to this day is fighting against the Japanese. Those are classic statements on the war. Is it possible that Miss Smedley is ignorant of them? I am surprised that an "authority on China" must be reminded of these elementary and basic historical facts.

Miss Smedley quoted a rather long passage trying to show that I am for having the common man in China pressed into the service of the puppet regime. She did not quote the complete sentence as she meant to convey an entirely different meaning from what I intended. She did not even insert a few dots to indicate to her readers that parts of the sentence were being left out. What I wrote on page 288 was: ". . . if conditions are such that they [the common men] cannot serve China, what difference does it make for the moment if they are pressed into the service of the puppet regime so long as they are clear in their hearts that they are Chinese?" By the same token the millions of Europeans quietly fighting for the liberation of their respective countries are patriots even though temporarily they have to live under Hitler.

Miss Smedley ended her review by a personal attack on me. She referred to an episode during my diplomatic career in Europe. But before doing so she should have found out the facts. She should know that while I was Minister in Poland the Chinese consular official in that country was involved, along with his Polish typist-secretary in a shady munitions deal in behalf of the Spanish revolutionary party. She should know also that the case was thoroughly investigated by the Chinese government through its court at Chungking and that it was clearly established that the consul was respon-



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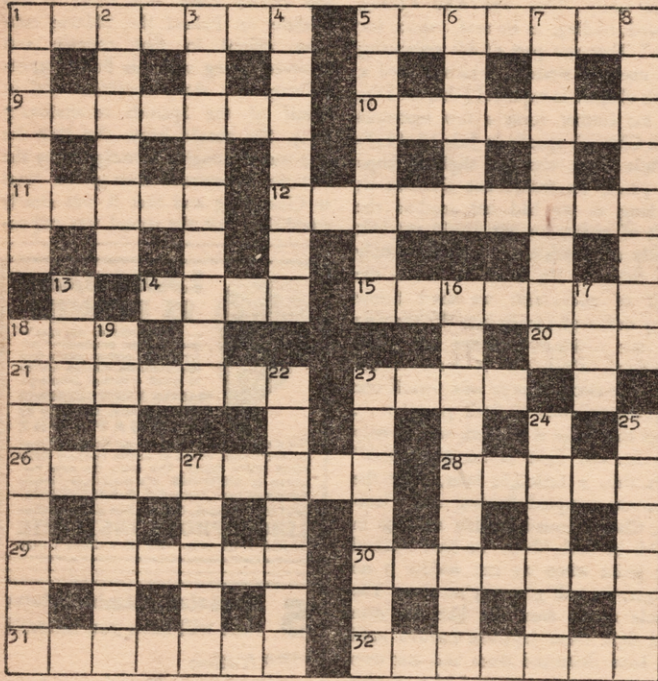
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Cross-Word Puzzle No. 94

By JACK BARRETT



ACROSS

- 1 A "Lord High Everything" (hyphen, 4-3)
- 5 They keep up more than morale
- 9 The little devil put on airs—with this result
- 10 Forced to surface, and last seen among spent shells on the Plate
- 11 A last letter
- 12 Anna Coyne shows vexation when upset
- 14 "Athens, the eye of Greece, mother of ---- And eloquence" (*Paradise Regained*)
- 15 L. I. Depot (anag.)
- 18 Dutch uncle
- 20 A back answer
- 21 He rented his spare room to Cox by night and Box by day
- 23 "For he by geometric scale, Could take the ---- of pots of ale" (*Hudibras*)
- 26 What's in this will out, and mark my words (two words, 3 and 6)
- 28 Pretty enough to get a ring
- 29 Just think!
- 30 Man and horse in one creature
- 31 Riddle makers usually allow us three
- 32 Color of a tea rose?

DOWN

- 1 "Stone walls do not a ---- make" (but they help)
- 2 Bird of prey, complete with victim
- 3 French for junk (hyphen, 4-1-4)
- 4 The sound of cheering comes from the light cavalry

- 5 Confess finally to being no longer young (hyphen, 5-2)
- 6 "The trenchant blade, Toledo trusty, for want of fighting was grown ----" (*Hudibras*)
- 7 "Silence is deep as ----; speech is shallow as Time" (*Carlyle*)
- 8 Hangs—and ends Puss
- 13 A reverse for 18 Across
- 16 Unlike Mr. Micawber, he hopes nothing will turn up
- 17 "How index-learning turns no student pale, Yet holds the ---- of science by the tail" (Pope)
- 18 Compelling to be helpful
- 19 Character in *Pilgrim's Progress*
- 22 New Brunswick, N. J. college
- 23 Jacket named after the earl, not the philosopher
- 24 Llama of the Alps?
- 25 The last car
- 27 I am back with a solo

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 93

ACROSS:—1 PITCHERS; 5 ON LEGS; 10 LATER; 11 SALT WATER; 12 CHAUCER; 13 STIPEND; 14 TENTHS; 15 TEHERAN; 18 CAEDMON; 21 BOUNDS; 24 TRIFLER; 26 AMERIGO; 27 AFTERWARD; 28 ROOST; 29 DERIDE; 30 ORTHOEPEY.

DOWN:—1 POLICY; 2 TETE-A-TETE; 3 HARCOT; 4 RESORTS; 6 NEW RICH; 7 ENTRE; 8 STRIDENT; 9 CLOSET; 16 RUDIGORE; 17 SCOTLAND; 19 MILDRED; 20 NORMAN; 21 BOARDER; 22 UNEARTH; 23 POETRY; 25 INTER.

sible for his own activities, which had nothing to do with his superior official. The judgment is on record and is public property.
H. H. CHANG
Hollywood, Cal., September 19

Miss Smedley Replies

Dear Sirs: Dr. Chang protests not so much because of my alleged ignorance of Chinese affairs as because I am not a propagandist and apologist for the dictatorship that rules China today. Many Americans are today campaigning for that dictatorship and are stuck up everywhere as "friends" of China, though they know little about the country. An American business man made a three months' trip to China last year, was made a general in the Chinese army, and is now a sort of high adviser to the official Kuomintang propaganda headquarters in New York!

Dr. Chang is right: I should have completed that fatal sentence of his on page 288. The total sentence is inexcusable. One can forgive a poor, ignorant man who is pressed into the Japanese puppet service but not one who "is clear in his heart" that he is a Chinese.

Dr. Chang is fortunate to have had a trial and been absolved of blame in that shady munitions deal with "the Spanish revolutionary party." But why does he call one Francisco Franco's outfit a "revolutionary party"? Franco and his henchmen were and are running dogs of Hitler and Mussolini.

AGNES SMEDLEY
Saratoga Springs, N. Y., October 10

CONTRIBUTORS

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MARIO BELLINI is the pseudonym of a former member of the Italian underground now in the United States.

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