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# Dictate Peace Says Author Speaking at Herald Book Fair

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The resurgent spirit of the masses of China, a spirit symbolized by the slogan "every man's shoulder to the wheel to push forward this great age," was described by Agnes Smedley, author of "Battle Hymn for China."

"They have no past to go back to, and no present, they only have the future," said Miss Smedley.

## DO NOT KNOW DEMOCRACY

Her years in China as a morale builder for the Chinese Army and a nurse in the Chinese Medical Corps have led Miss Smedley to believe that the government leaders do not even know how to spell the word democracy. The soldiers and teachers and peasants are building the industrial democracy of the future, she declared.

Envisioning health as one of the great freedoms of the new China, Miss Smedley outlined the new medical training services and clinics and scored our refusal to accept socialized medicine "because it interferes with profits."

The Japanese prisoners returning to Japan on the Gripsholm will be put to work immediately in the Japanese Asiatic Empire, because their foreign-learned skills are of value in the new Japanese technique of consolidation, John Goette, veteran Far East correspondent revealed.

Commenting on the tremendous Japanese expansion since 1931, Goette declared that they had improved their propaganda among conquered peoples and were entrenching themselves for a long stay in their newly gained empire.

He cited a million tons of rubber that they could not use as an example of the great resources now at Japanese command, and an indication of the long war we still had to fight.

Carl Van Doren, introduced by Chairman Louis Untermeyer, outstanding American poet, as a "scholar with an open mind," drew a historic parallel between the traitors of today and yesterday. "Benedict Arnold is just like Laval and Quisling," he said, "a defeatist, cherishing small resentment against his countrymen."

Roger Voisin, a trumpeter of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, led the audience in the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at both sessions.

## PLEA FOR TOLERANCE

An appeal to the "crusading spirit that was in Boston 80 or 100 years ago" to end racial intolerance, was made by Roi Ottley, prominent Negro journalist, who spoke at yesterday afternoon's session.

On the program with Ottley, author of "New World A-Coming," was Jean Helion, prominent French impressionist painter who escaped from a Nazi prison camp. Franklin P. Adams, Information Please Wit, provided the light touch and Chester Kerr, chief of the book division of OWI, presided.

As an example of the "illegal, immoral and downright dangerous" discrimination against Negroes, which he termed Exhibit A in the Axis arsenal of propaganda, Ottley charged that a white American general in England told the English press that as long as he was in command, Negroes would have Jim Crow accommodations.

Challenged by a man in the audience to give the name of the general, Ottley agreed to reveal it privately after the session.

Pleading for the extension of democracy to every element, Ottley called the Negro problem in America "the barometer of democracy" and argued that it was in self-interest that we should end the segregation of races.

Because only the kin of well-thinking Nazis are entitled to death notices in the paper, German casualties in this war have been much greater than those published, Helion, author of "They Shall Not Have Me," declared. From his contact with German civilians and other sources (he was liaison officer in the camp), he has estimated that there were as many as 160,000 casualties in a single month's fighting in Russia, despite official claims of 100,000 in 10 months.

Helion gave a dramatic recital of the forced march of starved, exhausted French soldiers to a Nazi



**AFTERNOON BOOK FAIR SPEAKERS**—Left to right: Seated—Jean Helion, author of "They Shall Not Have Me"; Mrs. Alice Dixon Bond. Standing—Chester Kerr, chief of the book division, OWI; Roger Voisin, Boston Symphony Orchestra trumpeter; Roi Ottley, author of "New World A-Coming."

prison camp and described how a button from a civilian overcoat, and an overseer's hat wrapped in newspapers from a garbage can started him on his escape.

## FRA'S EXPERIENCES

Displaying the drollery that has charmed radio audiences and drawn \$3,000,000 in bonds from the American people in the past few months, F. P. A. entertained his audience with a wry chat about his early memories of Boston. At one time, he used to ride a bicycle down Columbus avenue and later write his copy in The Herald office.

In between sly references to Ilka Chase and Clare Luce, he endorsed some of the new books, notably Mr. Ottley's and two about New England, "So Little Time," by J. P. Marquand and "Connecticut Yankee," by Wilbur L. Cross, adding thoughtfully, "Most of the good books are written about New England."

With Mr. Adams was Carl Van Doren, a speaker on last night's program, who bodyguarded him from the South Station. The two did a brother act on their recent bond drive. The distinguished historian was introduced by F. P. A. as "a serious boy."

Before introducing the speakers, Kerr outlined the purpose of the Book Division of OWI.

## BOOKS AS WEAPONS

Emphasizing the tremendous role of books as weapons in the war of ideas, Kerr said, "The ideas which underlie this war are no mere quickies, and books are the most effective carriers of these ideas."

As an example of the proof of the power of the book in wartime, Kerr described Wendell Wilkie's "One World," as the book that has done more to bring home to the American people the concept of a global war than any other book that has been published."