

(continued from previous page)

fanatic and lunatic fringe of the Isolationists, which solidly increased his reputation as a bad citizen. Yet, a contradiction in his make-up again, he actually has little patience with cranks and fanatics of any kind or degree. But the fact that he has never failed to use such material damns him the more in the opinion of the great majority of Americans.

Considerate Employer

So far in this review an attempt has been made to sketch the man and the mixtures that make up his character, politics, and influence. But what about the character and psychology of his paper. Working journalists pay it the tribute that it is one of the best papers to work for. Its staff is complete in expert writers, specialists, and news gatherers, and they are all well paid—better, in fact, than the all-round rates paid even in New York. Further, its owner-editor is loth to dismiss any of his workers. This remarkable tribute was recently paid by a special writer on a rival journal: "Any man of sober habits and ability who serves the *Tribune* long and well is certain to die well-to-do." McCormick has always been generous to members of his staff with Christmas gifts and bonuses. One year four of his chief executives split a million-dollar bonus (£50,000 each!). Of course, the *Tribune* is a very wealthy concern. The 2,000 shares of its company stock are closely held by the McCormick family trust, plus a very few individuals—and each share is valued in the region of £8,000.

Kiss of Death

Under the Colonel's management the *Tribune* has become enormously successful—and arrogant. With a circulation of over a million daily, it naturally is very powerful; yet its reputation in political circles is that its kiss of approval spells death to candidates. Politicians fear both its kiss and its kick, because its editorial writers, like their leader, fight with tireless and fearless savagery: the editorial policy towards Franklin Roosevelt, for example, was always that he was "just another scheming politician." Sometimes the very bitterness of the *Tribune's* attacks have brought obscure men into prominence and placed them in the positions the Colonel himself declared out loud they were unfitted to fulfil.

Indeed, it has been said of the *Tribune* that it is read so widely because it antagonises so many people. But the geographical situation of Illinois and Chicago must be taken into consideration too. For instance, if a million residents in that area of the Mid-Western States believed the *Tribune* to be a sinister force, would they buy the paper? The answer is obvious. It is very largely an issue of personal prestige, such as pertains to no editor or proprietor of a newspaper within the British Empire. The huge power and influence of the Colonel in the Mid-West of the U.S.A. are based very largely on the fact that millions of the people of the Middle West are inclined towards the ideas publicised in the *Tribune*, but they read it with more smiles of appreciation than frowns of disapprobation.

Dexterous, but Sinister

So they make their subscription to the paper permanent. The Colonel's

narrow nationalism, his distrust of foreigners (although there are so many migrants from all parts of Europe in his electorate), his hatred of the English, his detestation of the many activities of organised labour, his opposition to federal intervention in the economic affairs of the States, all coincide with and tend to inflame their own prejudices. It is their support, with the power that accompanies inherited wealth, great family prestige, and always of course his shrewd management of a big business enterprise, that makes Colonel Robert R. McCormick such a sinister force in the public life of the United States.

Henry Hall's Holiday

FOR the first time in eight years, Henry Hall—who, with his dance band, is well known to BBC listeners—recently took a day off. The reason? His daughter Betty's wedding. As a friendly gesture, Charles Shadwell, conductor of the BBC Variety Orchestra, conducted Hall's orchestra at the London music hall where it was appearing. Twenty-year-old Betty Hall is a medical student at the Royal Free Hospital, London, and her twenty-five-year-old bridegroom, Captain Peter G. Mundy, R.A.M.C., was formerly a medical student at another famous London hospital, St. Mary's, Paddington.

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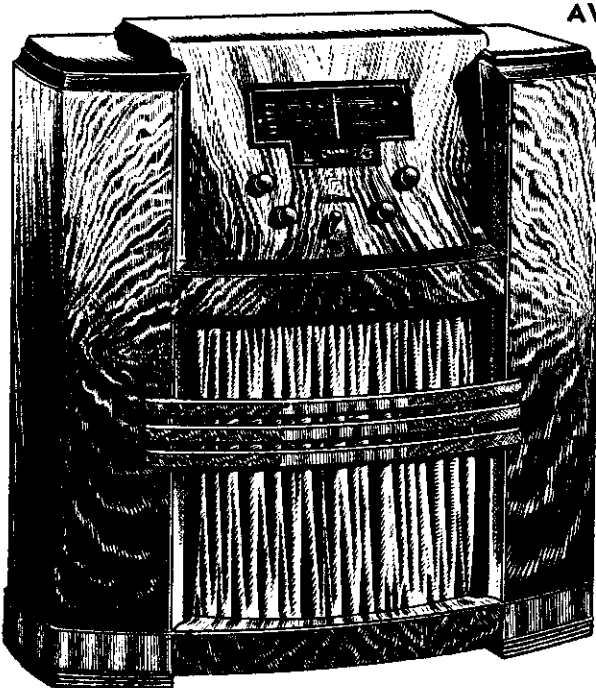
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