

national chairman, General Robert E. Wood, has urged its former members to "give full support to the nation's war effort until peace is attained."

"We have arrived at our own hour for blood and tears, toil and sweat," declared the *Washington Star* on the 9th December. That this and similar statements are more than the mere editorial rhetoric of an excited press has been borne out by the steps that have been taken during the past week to put the country on a full war basis. Mr. William S. Knudsen, chief of the Office of Production Management, has called for a "work or fight" programme that will make the 168-hour week urged by the President immediately effective in all the war industries. In its initial impetus his drive to convert industrial plants—80,000 are said to be involved—to armament production has particularly hit the manufacture of private motor cars, which is to be cut by 60 per cent. during the current month and by 75 per cent. in January. The co-operative mood of both capital and labour at the moment showed itself very clearly on the 11th December, when only a faint murmur of comment greeted the decision of the Mediation Board to grant Mr. John L. Lewis's demand for a closed shop in the recent coal mines dispute. On the 11th also the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a 10,000 million dollar War Appropriation Bill; and on the 13th the President signed another Bill, allowing United States land forces to be used anywhere in the world. The House Naval Committee has also accepted an Emergency Expansion Bill adding 150,000 tons of fighting ships to the United States Navy. On the 16th December Congress passed legislation giving the President extraordinary powers for the prosecution of the war analogous to those granted to Wilson in the Draft and Overman Acts of 1917 and 1918.

Even before Germany and Italy declared war, the importance of a fully co-ordinated effort in the "global" war against the Axis Powers had been widely emphasised in the United States. "This war must be fought from the beginning to the end, not as an isolationists' isolated war with Japan, but as a war of our Coalition against the Axis Coalition," wrote Mr. Walter Lippmann on the 9th December; and even Mr. Hearst's column in the hitherto notoriously isolationist *New York Journal American* subscribed to the same argument with a demand that Lease-Lend supplies should keep Britain "going with the right hand, while we poke Japan in the nose with the left"—which the President's latest report on Lease-Lend again assures us will be the case. In point of fact, developments of the past week have already brought into closer fit the numerous dovetails of Anglo-American collaboration. A simultaneous statement will probably soon be issued in Washington and this country announcing the appointment of the British Joint Staff Mission in the United States and the American Military Mission in Britain. The State Department has also informed His Majesty's Ambassador in Washington of the President's intention to appoint a Director of Censorship—Mr. Byron Price, Executive News Editor of the Associated Press, has actually been appointed—suggested a scheme of censorship co-operation between the United States and this country "to get 100 per cent. coverage."

As part of the co-operative effort in the Pacific, Admiral Thomas C. Hart, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Asiatic Fleet, has proposed the immediate destruction of the Borneo oilfields to forestall their falling into Japanese hands, and the United States has therefore promised—as yet only orally—to make good British and Dutch oil losses in the event of any such act of destruction being carried out. On the other side of the Pacific, the United States proposal to call a meeting of all American Powers at Rio de Janeiro during the first week of January, with a view to implementing the pledge of mutual assistance given in the Havana Resolution of 1940, has lent weight to the already strong desire of the State Department that British interests in Japan should not remain in the hands of the Argentine Government—which, it is hoped, will join in a common Pan-American front against the Axis (but see further under "Latin America").

The apparent unwillingness of the Soviet Union to move in the Far East for the present has aroused some misgivings in the United States, and provoked a somewhat bitter editorial in the otherwise not unfriendly *New York Times* on the 11th December. After seeing M. Litvinov on the same day Mr. Hull issued a statement to the effect that "events of the last few hours" had reinforced the United States determination "to carry out its programme of aid to the Soviet

Union," and that the United States Government believed that Russia would "do its full part in standing side by side with all liberty-loving people against the common menace." He later confided to His Majesty's Ambassador that he had pressed M. Litvinov strongly that the Soviet Union should join in the struggle against Japan, especially as the United States Government possessed information to the effect that Japan had promised Germany to attack Russia at the most convenient future moment. M. Litvinov's assurance, which he gave at his press conference on the 13th, that "we are all in the same boat and will perish together or triumph together over the greatest evil of our time" has been received with considerable relief by the American public—although it has probably not fully placated the *Chicago Tribune*, which two days before had reverted to the insidious suggestion that the exhaustion of both the Hitler and the Stalin régimes would be the best preliminary for a "decent peace" in Europe.

## ERRATUM.

Summary No. 113, p. 19, third line from bottom: "1st December" should read "4th December."

## LATIN AMERICA.

The declaration of war on the United States by Germany and Italy has led to declarations of war upon these two countries by the small Central American republics—Nicaragua, Costa Rica, which is particularly bellicose, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panamá, Haiti and Honduras. The South American republics have not yet gone so far, but both in Central and in Southern America all Governments, with the notable exceptions of the Argentine and Chilean, have declared their solidarity with the United States and all, not excluding even the Argentine Government, have taken precautions of varying scope and efficiency against the Axis and Japan. Everywhere, except in Chile, Axis funds have been frozen or, as in Brazil, put under strict control. In most of the Central States Axis subjects have been taken into custody or under surveillance, and, as elsewhere, censorship and other security measures have been taken. Chile, Uruguay and Bolivia have, like Argentina, now declared that, in accordance with Pan-American objections, they will not regard the United States as a belligerent.

The influence which Latin America is likely to have on the course of the war is recognised by both sides as important. Brazil, Cuba and Panamá having, like Chile, proposed some kind of Pan-American Conference, the United States Government is now promoting, in accordance with the Havana resolutions of 1940, a Pan-American meeting of Foreign Ministers which is to be held at Rio early in January, and will be preceded immediately by a meeting in Guatemala of the Central American representatives. The United States Government hopes to achieve unanimity on the subject of common hemisphere defence, and the general pressure on Argentina and Chile will perhaps induce them to join in measures to this end. In order to leave Argentina no excuse for neutrality His Majesty's Government are asking her to hand over to Switzerland the protection of British interests which she had undertaken in Japan. On the other hand, Axis diplomacy has not been inactive. The Japanese Ambassador is believed to have mingled threats, and promises at Buenos Aires, assuring the Argentine Government that Japan had no local territorial ambition other than to see the Falkland Islands restored to Argentina, but declining to guarantee the safety of Argentine ships if they put to sea. The Japanese Minister at Santiago conveyed to the Foreign Minister the idea that Japan was anxious for Chile to declare war on her, and in default of any promise of help from the United States this has redoubled the Chilean Government's determination to keep their country, in its undefended state, out of the war. The Japanese Minister at Quito, too, is reported to have threatened that, if Ecuador declared war on Japan, the capital and Guayaquil would at once be bombarded. In their efforts to assure at least the neutrality of Latin America, the Germans, Italians and Japanese, it must be supposed, will find a useful argument in the initial successes of Japan in the Far East.

Public opinion in Latin America is preponderantly anti-totalitarian, although the attitude of the various Governments and the influence of the