

Liberty

April 11, 1942

A REFUGEE LOOKS AT THE U.S.A.

★★★

 THE sight of happy children at play, food in store windows—real food that people can buy—friendly policemen who are here to help, not to hound and spy on us, lights, laughter, freedom to think and to speak and to sit in the sun in our public parks, no matter what our race or color—all these things we in America take for granted. But to a refugee from Nazi-dominated Europe they are almost incredible. Herbert Sonnenfeld, who arrived here not so very long ago, made a record with his camera of the things that impressed him most in a great city. Here are some of the pictures he took. "America, are you conscious of your blessings?" he asks. Well, these "blessings" are among the many things we are fighting for to preserve them for the Americans of the future.

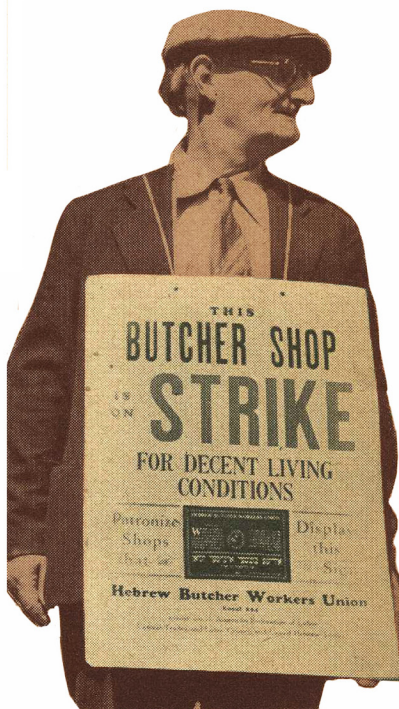


Refugees cannot believe their eyes when they see such plenty. Cheese, coffee, ham, beer!



White men, black men, smiling, friendly, sit side by side and watch a baseball game. This sort of thing could not happen in Nazi Europe. There, not only are black men barred but men of any "non-Aryan" hue—except "Aryan" Japs!

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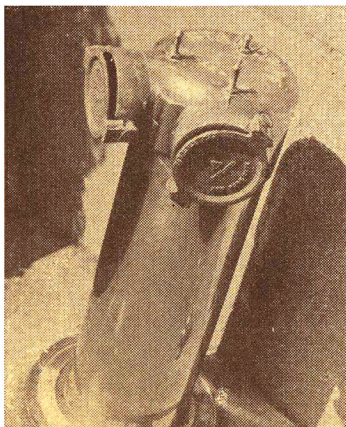


Just try this in Germany! Jews who even have jobs are lucky—imagine them going on strike!



The authorities don't boss the people; they even stop traffic so the children can play. Nazi authorities boss even German children.

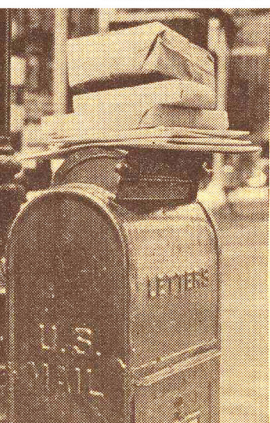
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In Europe this pure shiny brass would long ago have fed the greedy war machine. What hasn't gone to feed it?



Here, when you see a man in a snappy uniform, he may be a doorman, not a soldier. Europe's doormen are few and go shabby.



Packages on a mailbox—unguarded! Another surprising thing is to see a WPA employee working freely for his government, not at forced labor as such men do in Germany's Europe—or, if captive Poles, at slave labor.

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Policemen are friendly. This is old stuff to Americans, but it impresses refugees mightily.

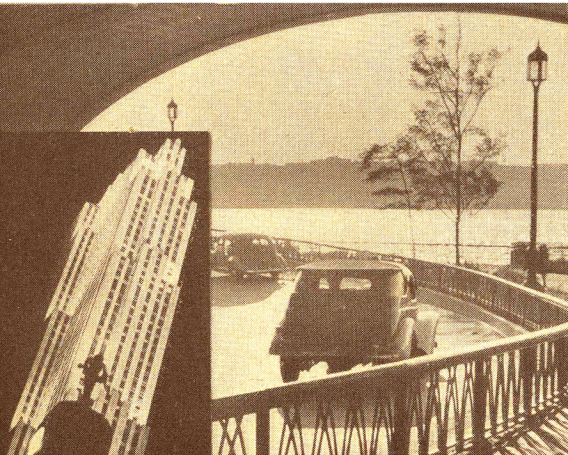


It is a wonderful thing that here a man can speak his mind, criticize or champion—that men can assemble peaceably. Under Hitler's heel, they can't.



Real fruit—and unbelievably cheap! Refugees are not used to seeing displays like this. It's fun just to stand around and look and marvel at them.

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The people's cars are still rolling along American highways. Europe builds fine roads to bear the weight of monster tanks.

Two years of blackout in Europe makes our towers of light an exciting sight.



You couldn't see this in Germany. There "Aryans" are officially superior and "non-Aryans" must sit on yellow benches in the public parks.



Herbert S. Sonnenfeld, refugee camera man, gazes at America.

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