

SOWING, EARLY WINTER

*The stump he put on the andirons at sunset whole
Is settled in a thousand particles of coal.
He bends up out of sumptuous recumbent line,
Slowly powerful; throws on a new bronze cone of pine;
Puffs vigorously through reed at the sponge of ashes,
Dead-gray as his grandsire's coat, in the corncob bowl;
Fades back into chair again almost supine
Of body and soul.*

*The embers threaten a moment. Fire flashes
Explosively, and the room is filled with shapes.
The one cheap piece of stupid statuary
Throws up and down a dancing jackanapes
Incongruously merry.*

*The man starts quick in the light and swallows and grieves.
The wind is going southward, slashing leaves
With ropes of water.*

*God, what is the world coming to? . . . Fire and water . . .
Slaughter . . .*

*He swallows thickly, brooding on his son,
Who has gone from a farmer's hoe to a soldier's gun.*

*With forearm kin to copper in strength and hue,
He throws on another pine cone, throws on two.
And before the three have begun to whiten and crinkle
And tinkle like bits of broken bottle . . . tinkle,
He grooves the broad field of his brow
In many a sharp-cut wrinkle,
Just as this very day he drove his plow
Into hilly loam and sowed his winter grain.*

*It is a far more serious sowing now,
Feverish in his brain.
For the field is hung with shadow and is acid,
And the seed is sudden hate of earth and man.
His knotted hands crush Germany, Japan. . . .*

Outside the wind has died, the rain is placid.

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EDITORIAL

ONE year of hard struggle has gone by since that historic date of January 1, 1942, when the representatives of twenty-six governments signed the now famous Declaration of the United Nations. Today, the name United Nations is known all over the world as a symbol and a promise of a new and better humanity. On the battlefronts, in free and in occupied countries men and women are resisting, fighting, dying in the name and for the sake of the United Nations. For that has become the synonym of freedom, security, and prosperity for all mankind. In it is implied the only hope of ending this war by a real victory over fascism and by a real peace, and not merely by a compromise and by a new armistice.

During the first year of existence, the United Nations had to face the full might of the Axis Powers and of their miserable satellites. During this year, fascist forces still had the initial advantage of a decade of preparation for war. They had the industrial resources robbed and stolen from all the occupied countries. They could still count on the fanatical, brutal discipline of millions and millions of Fascists. During this time the United Nations still had to learn the essential principles of global war, of the full mobilization of all forces and of all resources necessary for political, military, and economic war. They had to learn the difficult technique of establishing a new kind of international community based not on traditional egotism and distrust, on conflict and rivalry, but on the highest human concepts of generosity, mutual help and, above all, of equality—principles without which there will never be a real United Nations.

The balance of the United Nations in the first year of their existence presents great credits, but also serious debits. In the military field, the credits are visible in Russia, in Africa, and in the Solomons. The Soviet armies, despite the two incredibly strong nazi drives intended to annihilate Russia, are again on the offensive. Again, as last year, they are attacking and killing the enemy, but with the very essential difference this time that a vital part of the nazi air force had to be dispatched to Africa. Even more important is the fact that next spring Hitler will no longer be able to concentrate all his forces against them. In Africa, British and American armies, supported by their fighting allies from almost all of the occupied countries, have taken the offensive. This campaign reveals the character of Allied strategy. It is no longer a defensive move to protect the Near East and the Suez Canal; it is an effort to drive the Axis forces from all Africa in order to use it as one of the springboards for the coming great and decisive assault on the enemy in Europe.

In the Solomons, Japan is suffering her first defeats. She is learning that surprise, hypocrisy, and treachery have only a temporary value and do not bring the decisive results which the ruthless military clique in Tokio had expected. In the Solomons, a great test is taking place within a limited space, with heavy forces engaged on both sides. The United Nations have shown