

The Changing World

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THESE AIR-CONDITIONED YOUNGSTERS

WHAT CHILD OR YOUTH today doesn't live in a thrilling dream world dominated by the airplane? Girls and boys, infants and adolescents, alike, play endlessly at building and flying planes. Their favorite comics, the motion pictures, the children's radio serials extol the hero pilot who, it seems, always speeds to the scene of action in the nick of time to turn the battle from defeat to victory. In school and out these air-conditioned youngsters literally spread their wings and take off into a dream world.

We adults encourage this air-mindedness of our children and rightly so. We know that the security of our very lives depends upon airpower. We must produce sufficient planes and train enough pilots, skilled and courageous, to clear the skies of all air-pirates.

Happily, we expect this war to be won in another few years. By the time we have stamped out the military cults of our enemies, only a relatively small percentage of the twenty-five million children now in our elementary and secondary schools will have grown up to participate in this air-war. For the vast majority of this group some other outlet than fighting must be found.

In what manner can this air-mindedness of our children be directed? Obviously, many vocational outlets will be found in the designing, constructing, servicing, and piloting of the great com-

mercial air fleets of tomorrow. In a peaceful and prosperous world, the network of air commerce will bring the raw materials and finished goods and services of the entire earth to each consumer no matter how remote his dwelling place. Products that have been luxuries in the past may some day soon be rather commonplace as a result of air-borne commerce. The speeding of written correspondence and printed material by air needs greatly increased facilities. The air-borne businessman, the student, the laborer, the vacationist—all these will some day need the services of today's children.

What the ultimate effect of so extensive an air commerce will be, no one can foretell. But children may be shown that as the plane binds the human family more closely together, new social, economic, and political arrangements must be created. Where we once depended (unsuccessfully) upon natural barriers to restrain peoples from going to war, tomorrow the airplane will force us to create new types of human controls. Can teachers throughout the world instill in the hearts and minds of our children a love and respect for orderly democratic institutional controls? If teachers in the school, press, pulpit, and home stress these lessons, we have a chance of directing the interests of our air-conditioned youngsters toward lasting benefit to all.

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