

BALTIMORE AND OHIO EMPLOYEES CUMBERLAND DAY—ARMORY

May 28, 1941

Cumberland

BOTH the City of Cumberland and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad are to be congratulated warmly today upon the occasion of this second Annual Baltimore and Ohio Employees' Cumberland Day.

I imagine that the relationship between your City and the Railroad—I almost said, *Your* Railroad—if not unique among Capital-Labor relations of the Country, at least sets an example of harmony and good-will that any community and any industry might do well to study and emulate.

One of the finest gestures recorded in connection with the speeding up of National Defense production plans was the action taken several months ago, by the shopmen and maintenance-of-way men of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, in agreeing to work 48 hours a week instead of 40, at no increase in wages.

With such a spirit of cooperation among the workers of the Country generally, America's requirements in the materials of war, and their transportation, would be realized so quickly, and so completely, that there could never be any question of our being prepared and able, to defend ourselves against any aggressor.

Particularly in this day and age, when hate is rampant throughout the world, is it gratifying to see such an exhibition of continuing good-will on the part of employers and employees, as is evidenced here today. There is so much of discord and strife, so much of tragedy and suffering occasioned by the wars raging in other continents, that today's celebration seems symbolic of the vast difference that exists today between our own great Country of America, and almost the entire remaining world.

Ten days ago the Nation and our State marked with appropriate ceremonies, "I Am An American" Day, dedicated to emphasizing the privileges, and *the responsibilities*, that accompany the acquisition of citizenship in this land of ours. Privileged to live under such favorable conditions as now prevail here, and which contrast so strongly with conditions in the remainder of the world, I believe that it is the bounden duty of everyone to give thought to this most important matter of our citizenship, and to realize fully what it means to enjoy American citizenship.

The exercises of "I Am An American" Day were directed particularly to the new citizens—those who had come of age during the year, or foreign-born persons who had become naturalized within the twelve-month period. Consideration of the true significance of Americanism, however, should have far wider scope than is encompassed within the boundary of those two new groups of citizens.