

LaGrande Evening Observer

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Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, Be acceptable in thy sight, O Jehovah my rock, and my redeemer.—Psalm 19: 14.

PERIL OF CONSCRIPTION

The dangerous violence now under way in China puts a new emphasis on the old question of the limitation of armaments.

Japan, throwing a highly-trained and exceedingly capable conscript army into the fray, proves once more that treaties to avert war are not of much use as long as no limits are put on the size of the armies which the signatory nations can maintain.

Furthermore, the chief villain in the piece seems to be conscription — compulsory military service for all young men. The device that the French invented after the fall of the Bastille, when the "levy en masse" appeared the only possible way of preserving the revolution from the armies of jealous European monarchs, has got entirely out of hand.

As among the chief powers of the world, only three — the United States, Great Britain and Germany — rely on volunteer armies in time of peace. All the rest have conscription laws and call to the colors each year a certain number of young men of military age.

These young men, kept in service for one, two or three years, constitute the standing army. When they retire to civil life they become the trained reserve—a huge body of skilled soldiers, ready for use at any moment, and vastly more important, in numbers and potential effect, than the standing army itself.

For example: Japan's peace-time army strength is rated at approximately 230,000 men. But to get an army many times that large, ready for instant service, Japan needs only call up her reserves. The job can almost be done overnight.

Consider the figures. A young Frenchman serves with the colors for 18 months—and remains in the reserve for 28 years. A young Japanese serves for two years, and remains in reserve for 23 years. A young Italian serves for 18 months and stays in reserve for 19 years. As long as such systems are retained, armies cannot be materially reduced.

There is the situation that is made to order for the militarist. No sabre-rattling government will be ready to listen to reason as long as it possesses a large trained army reserve ready for instant service. If such threats to world peace as the present turmoil in China are to be averted, there must be world-wide recognition of the fact that conscription is too dangerous an implement to be tolerated any longer.

LAVISH STATES

While private business and private citizens were paring expenditures to the core last year under the duress of the depression the state governments as a whole were piling another \$230,000,000 upon their already swollen budgets of 1930. Perhaps they had not heard that a major depression was upon the land.

The 48 state governments spent a total of \$2,290,270,059 last year, compared with \$571,503,220 in 1917. The tax-oppressed who complained back in 1917 about the high cost of state government did not know when they were well off. They were paying less than a fourth of the present state tax bill and had more business and employment and high wages.

Operation of the general departments of the 48 governments cost the people \$1,890,505,636, or \$11.40 per capita, last year. To their education bills alone was added \$28,811,109. The interest on their debts amounted to \$101,430,498, a fifth of the total cost of state government 15 years ago.

Statistics of this kind at a time like this raise two questions in the mind of the average citizen and taxpayer: What do we get for this astounding expenditure of public funds? Can the country afford it?

None is so naive as to believe that he is getting a dollar's worth of service for every dollar of taxes collected. Nor does anybody think that the states, under present business conditions, can much longer support their governments in the manner to which they have been accustomed.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK

CHICAGO, Mar. 15 (AP)—(U.S.D.A.)—Hogs 15,000; slow 10@15c lower; 170-210 lbs. \$4.45@4.60. Cattle 6000; fed steers and yearlings strong to 25c higher; bulls weak; vealers steady, \$6 to 7 to outsiders.

BUTTERFAT

SAN FRANCISCO, Mar. 16 (AP)—Butterfat f. o. b. San Francisco, 24c.

SILVER QUIET

NEW YORK, Mar. 16 (AP)—Bar silver quiet and unchanged at 29 3/4c.

Other Papers Say:

FRANCE AND BRIAND

The kaleidoscopic character of French politics is disclosed in the summary of the activity of the late Aristide Briand. He was premier 11 times, foreign minister 19 times, minister of the interior four times, minister of justice three times, and of education twice. He was in official life 25 years and served in 25 cabinets.

In many European countries the government stands or falls with the parliamentary majority. A shift in a vote on any important question which leaves the government in the minority results in the resignation of the cabinet. As political lines are far looser in France than in this country these shifts come frequently so a government survives only a comparatively short period.

But French policy persists. No matter who may head the cabinet or the foreign office there is a continuity in attitude which other countries may count on: and that attitude will be predominantly for France. The French cherish few illusions. With all their Gallic temperament they are as conservative in their political thinking as any people. Whether monarchy or republic France is still France.

Briand was one of the world's hopefuls. He seemed to sense the need for a rapprochement with Germany and with other countries. His efforts on behalf of peace seemed entirely sincere, yet even Briand failed in the critical moments last summer when France's delay in responding to the Hoover moratorium proposal let a slow paralysis spread over the world. The name of Briand is linked with that of Kellogg to the Peace Pact of Paris. The idea for the outlawry of war was original with neither. But each had the courage to espouse it and secure its approval by the nations of the world.

Briand leaves no successor in world favor. Tardieu and Laval are French politicians whose viewpoint is strictly national. But the Briand leaves is at work in France; and some one will arise to take his place and the universal urge of peoples for world co-operation. — Oregon Statesman.

ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

As we read the dispatches coming out of Washington, we gather the impression that the big job of congress is to provide money enough to support the government.

But might it not be better statesmanship to reduce the expenditures? Might not this be the biggest work confronting the lawmakers?

At a time like this, economy should be in the saddle at Washington, economy that will put an end to reckless expenditures, that will stop the trend toward paternalism? Will it a time for the congressmen and senators to tell their constituents to abandon their raids on the treasury?

Of course, the financial rehabilitation legislation had to come. The government was confronted with an unusual condition. Our national production had so far outstripped our capacity to absorb and sell, that our entire economic structure was out of joint.

But why cannot congress pare other expenditures? Industry, regaining its feet after its severe illness, should not be burdened with excessive taxes.—Albany Democrat-Herald.

A NEW BEGGING BASKET

The magazine Variety prints a dispatch from Hollywood that is surely one of the oddest of all news stories produced by the depression. It is a story telling how paupers in the film capital have taken to hiring women and children to act as "supporting cast" for beggars.

It works like this: a beggar will engage a woman and child and will take them along as he goes down the street asking for quarters. Men who would ordinarily give him nothing grow soft-hearted when they see his supposed wife and child, and hand out liberally. The beggar, Variety says, can average from \$10 to \$14 a day in profit, after paying his "assistant" \$4 a day.

The chief moral to be drawn from this little tale is: don't give money to street beggars. Make your contribution to a regular charitable organization and let it do the rest. — Eugene Register-Guard.

SHARP DISPUTE IN SENATE GROUP ON WORLD COURT

(Continued From Page One) bers of the court with the United States."

Senate leaders believe there is little possibility of a senate decision at this session, on the court issue.

ROOSEVELT'S LEAD 2 TO 1 OVER MURRAY

(Continued From Page One)

Returns from 178 of 2233 precincts in the state gave Roosevelt 3283 and Murray 2752.

J. I. France, former senator from Maryland was running well ahead of Gen. Jacob S. Coxey, mayor of Marion, Ohio, in the Republican presidential preference race. France had 3005 to Coxey's 1718 votes on the basis of 144 precincts reporting. President Hoover, while not a candidate in the primary, had received 18 votes.

Returns Come in Slowly Most of the early returns were from the urban centers of population and Murray supporters expected the Oklahoma governor to draw his greatest support from the rural district. Returns were slow in coming in, many county auditors deferring counting the vote count until later today.

Though meagre, the returns indicated a record Democratic presidential primary vote for North Dakota. Election judges said the demand for Democratic ballots indicated thou-

PREDICTS IMPROVING VICTORY

NEW YORK, March 16 (AP)—Fred McLean, secretary of the North Dakota Democratic state committee, in a long distance telephone conversation from Grand Forks with Roosevelt headquarters today predicted that Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt would carry North Dakota in the presidential primaries by from two to three votes to one.

"Although the returns are coming in slowly," he said "we now have an adequate cross section of the entire state both rural and urban territories, which enables us to make a positive prediction. The country districts are coming in very strongly for Governor Roosevelt. The city districts are in no place running less than two and one half to one for Roosevelt."

WOULD INCREASE VOTERS

WASHINGTON, March 16 (AP)—A movement to increase the number of voters coming to the presidential polls this year by 40 per cent, bringing the total of 50,000,000, was called to President Hoover's attention today.

ATLANTA RECALL FAILS

ATLANTA, Ga., March 16 (AP)—The city of Atlanta has voted to retain as its chief executive, Mayor James L. Key, outspoken critic of prohibition and advocate of Sunday movies for a second year.

A record vote for municipal elections here was cast yesterday to bring about defeat of a bitterly fought recall movement 7,178 to 11,744. There were disorders despite police at polling places.

SOCIALIST WINS IN PRIMARY

MILWAUKEE, Wis., March 16 (AP)—After having Daniel W. Hoan, Socialist, in the mayor's chair for 15 years, Milwaukee has decided to give him another opportunity at re-election.

The mayor polled a plurality of more than 10,000 votes over four competitors in yesterday's mayoral primary, receiving more than twice as many votes as his nearest rival, Alderman Joseph P. Carney, Non-Partisan. Mayor Hoan and Carney will contest for the mayoralty in the election April 5.

PEACE TALKS ARE STILL UNDER WAY

(Continued From Page One)

supervision as a guarantee that they shall not advance toward the city. Because of the continued tension in Chinese territory, United States Consul General Cunningham advised the American missionaries who have sought refuge here not to return to their posts in outlying districts. There has been a continual flow of Americans into Shanghai from distant schools and missions, he said, ever since the cessation of hostilities.

CLASHES LESS FREQUENT

WASHINGTON, March 16 (AP)—Nelson T. Johnson, American minister to China, advised the state department today that authoritative reports from the Chinese front indicate the situation is gradually becoming stabilized and clashes are less frequent.

NEWS OF ARMISTICE

GENEVA, March 16 (AP)—The League of Nations assembly committee of nineteen on the Sino-Japanese problem was informed this afternoon that Japanese and Chinese authorities at Shanghai had reached a secret tentative agreement calling for an armistice and the summoning of a peace conference.

This information came from Paul Hymans, president of the assembly, and foreign minister of Belgium, who explained he received it from Naotake Sato, Japan's delegate.

M. Hymans reported additional negotiations at Shanghai were expected and it was hoped the situation would be clarified.

The committee of nineteen will hold a public meeting tomorrow.

COMMISSION ASKS BIDS ON WALLULA ROAD

(Continued From Page One)

More than 15 delegations representing as many organizations and communities were here today to appear before the commission relative to road improvements. Highway department officials expected the session to last through the entire day, necessitated by the large number of delegations and the business matters listed on the program.

Bids Opened Opening of bids on two grading and surfacing projects, the large Clackamas and bridge, several trestles and ferry contracts started the meeting, but the awards were not expected to be announced until later in the day. Construction of the 300-foot span on the East Portland-Oregon City highway heads the projects for which bids were called.

The commission again will open bids on the one million dollar bridge which failed of bidders two weeks ago. The bond matter will be the first order of business at the afternoon session. Officers have announced confidence that bids for the issue, necessary to tide over the department for six months, will be entered today.

A delegation from lumber firms in the Willamette valley will appear to urge wood construction in spans and when the president has been re-elected. Delegates will also be present urging improvement of the west side Pacific highway, the John Day highway and for improvements in Lake, Coos, Malheur, Umatilla, and Harney counties.

Projects for which bids were opened include: Clatsop county—Vesper section of the Nehalem highway, secondary state highway No. 102, 2.5 miles of grading and surfacing. Lake and Harney counties—Valley Falls-Crocker ranch section of Lakeview-Burns highway, grading and surfacing. Clackamas county—Three-span steel arch bridge with concrete approaches over the Clackamas river on the East Portland-Oregon City highway. Clatsop county—Six pile trestles on the Vesper section of the Nehalem highway, secondary state highway No. 102, totaling approximately 450 linear feet in length. Pile trestle 504 linear feet in length over Elk creek on the Cannon Beach road at Cannon Beach. Pile trestle 214 linear feet in length on the Cannon Beach road about 1 1/2 miles south of Cannon Beach Junction. Douglas county—Furnish ferry service across the Umpqua river at Reedsport during the two-year period May 16, 1932 to May 15, 1934. Lane county—Furnish ferry service across the Siuslaw river at Florence for the two-year period May 16, 1932 to May 15, 1934.

CHICKENS STRONG WITH SUPPLY AT LOW POINT NOW

PORTLAND, Mar. 16 (AP)—Extreme scarcity of chickens in the local territory and strengthening of the tone at northern points, has kept the local price not only high, but in some instances late advance in the bids of killers is reflected.

Practically everything in the chicken line is today being sought by killers. The expected avalanche of live fowls as a result of the extreme low mark for eggs, has not materialized to the extent that leading killers believed would be shown. They figured upon picking up hens at whatever price they cared to offer.

The shortage in light weights has not been due so much to the lack of offerings, but to the increased demand for such stock because of the low price. However, heavy hens are really scarce and during the last day or so showed quite fair advance in bids as a result. Mediums are firm, while in the spring chicken division several raisers appear to have a monopoly of current offerings.

There was no change in the butter trading trend for the day although increasing make is reflected in the local market. There was no change in current values. Little change is reflected anywhere in the country aside from central California.

There is a mixture of quality and price in the market for spring lambs here. Sales of late arrivals have been slower around 18@20c lb. owing to the absence of top quality. Trade is demanding only the best.

Market for country-killed meats are holding unchanged in price generally. Veal are merely steady but hogs and mutton and old lambs are firm.

Artichokes are today selling as low as 55¢@60¢ for 5s and 70¢ dozen for 4s, both unusually low prices, due to the rather sluggish demand for this vegetable.

Owing to the wide spread of quality as well as the various sized crates, there is considerable spread on cauliflower-broccoli prices in the local trade. Californian is fast disappearing. Only a limited call for No. 2 Roseburg stock.

Congestion of spinach is shown as a result of quick pickup of local and Walla Walla offerings. A carload of the latter appeared. Californian is selling as low as \$1.50@1.75 crate for 40s, reports Ralph McLaughlin, of Pacific Fruit.

Notes of wholesale trading: Grapefruit prices are materially strengthened both in California and Florida.

Asparagus is about steady; still raining in Sacramento.

Lettuce is firmer at southern shipping points.

Green pea market is again lower, with crates \$5 and a new low of 12¢@14¢ lb.

Onions have been advanced to \$7 for No. 1 stock to retailers.

Hothouse cucumbers from Iowa are being consigned to Portland. Local stock weaker.

Spinach was in rather liberal supply today on the east side farmers' wholesale market. Local as well as upper Columbia offerings were shown.

Some from Roseburg of fancy quality sold \$1.50 for 30s, packed in ice, while local sold 90¢@1.00 for orange boxes.

Carrots continued their previous strong demand and price and there remained a very active call for parsnips.

Cabbage sold well up to \$1.50 crate for fancy goods.

Mustard and cabbage as well as turnip greens sold fairly well.

Apples were in just as liberal offering as during recent days, with low prices held.

SUGAR AND FLOUR

PORTLAND, Mar. 16 (AP)—Sugar—Cane, granulated, \$4.25 100 lbs. beet, \$4.15.

Domestic flour—selling price delivered: Patent, 45s, \$5.60; do 58s, \$5.40; bakers' 45s, \$5.20; soft white flour, \$4.50@4.80; rye, \$3.75@5.90.

PORTLAND PRODUCE

PORTLAND, Mar. 16 (AP)—Hops—Nominal, 1930, 11@11 1/2c; 1931, 11@11 1/2c.

Onions—selling price to retailers: Oregon, \$5.50@7.00; bolters, \$5.00@5.50.

Butter, butterfat, eggs, live poultry, country meats and mohair, nuts, cascara bark, hops, potatoes new and seed potatoes, wool and hay quotations unchanged.

NATIONAL GUARD COMPANY PRAISED

(Continued From Page One)

pany E on the backing received from the townspeople and for the public spirited attitude which La Grande takes toward the company, especially in setting up an indoor rifle range in the basement of the Saccawewa Inn for guard use.

There are 180,000 men in the national guard in the United States, says Byron states, and they constitute the nucleus of the force which can be mobilized in the event of an emergency for defense of the country. They also have the added function of acting under the orders of the governor of the state in suppressing local riots. The national guard can not be used outside of the United States, however, he adds, except on the declaration of war by congress. The companies from one state can not be transferred to another state except through a presidential proclamation, and only then requested to do so by the governor of the state which they are entering.

Federal inspection will be held Monday evening, Mar. 28, and extensive preparations are being made by the company. Major Byron states that Colonel H. A. Allen, regular army officer of Portland, attached to the instructors office, will conduct a formal inspection of the company, nomenclature of rifle, pistol and automatic pistol; questioning on first aid and hygiene and military courtesy.

The company will demonstrate its proficiency in military calisthenics, bayonet fighting, display of field equipment; and the non-commissioned officers will be questioned on map reading.

Armory Held Needed The company is handicapped by the size of the drill floor at the improvised armory but it is hoped that in the near future the state will match the appropriations raised by the county and city that a new armory will be built, he states. Half the sum, that to be raised by the county, has been provided already.

Two vacancies are found in Company E at present, Capt. W. A. Bean announces. The positions will be filled by young men above the age of 18 years who are in good physical condition.

Enthusiasm is already growing and the company is making plans for the annual two weeks encampment at Camp Clatsop in June. The federal government spends \$250,000 annually on the encampment, paying all the expenses of the national guard companies of the state, including food, clothing and transportation. Any young man wishing to take the trip to Camp Clatsop in June should see Captain Bean at Zuber hall, Monday evening.

Precious Metals in East

An East Indian native's financial standing is based in part upon his accumulation of silver. Much of the gold lace worn by Indians is often silver with a thin plating of gold. Camels, elephants and bullocks of the Orient are "all dressed up" for a royal parade when they fare forth in silver trappings.—National Geographic Society Bulletin.

Structural Idea

Recessional building is a term applied to the new style of architecture, seen, for example, in many of the New York structures. As the building increases in height the width of the floors is reduced, so that seemingly the building tapers.

Noted American Writer

Oliver Optic was the pseudonym of William Taylor Adams (1822-1897), author and editor. Under this name he became a voluminous and popular writer of fiction for the younger generation. His writings embraced travel and adventure, notably Young America Abroad, and Starry Starry Series.

Owl Not Long Lived

Carl W. Neumann, a German authority, says that the life expectancy of the owl is sixty-eight years, but this is not unusually long compared with that of other birds, such as the falcon, vulture, golden eagle, swan, goose, elder duck, raven and parrot.

That Dreaded Middle Age

In the medical profession "middle aged" is the term applied to persons between forty-five and sixty years. The characteristics of middle age come earlier to some and later to others, but that is a fair average.

Can't Get Rid of Her

A Los Angeles woman is reported to have left her husband seven times, and returned to him again in less than a month in each instance. Such business as that is enough to discourage the average husband.—Florida Times-Union.

Shaddock

In its original wild state, says the Los Angeles Times, the grapefruit was called shaddock. That was years ago, before men learned that unless they were careful, it might strike back.

FALK'S Easter is a week from Sunday! —and you'll find Style, Practicality and Price Appeal IN OUR Easter Coats Dress Coats Sport Coats

Style, Practicality and Price Appeal IN OUR Easter Coats Dress Coats Sport Coats. \$15... To... \$49.50. \$10... To... \$25. Miss Necia Pumphrey, a licensed cosmetiste for Colonial Dames is giving free facials all this week—Phone for your appointment now!

MARKET NEWS OF THE DAY. CHICAGO WHEAT, PORTLAND WHEAT, CHICAGO CORN, PORTLAND CORN, PORTLAND LIVESTOCK, BOSTON WOOL, SPECIALS. HAMBURGER 2 Pounds 25c. SAUSAGE 2 Pounds 25c. RIB BOIL 3 Pounds 25c. FAT BACK 3 Pounds 25c. BACON SQUARES 2 Pounds 25c. NEW YORK, Mar. 16 (AP)—The stock market was in no mood to overlook adverse trade and dividend news today and prices slumped rather decidedly, although trading remained quiet. Net losses in the more active issues ranged from 1 to 3 points, with a few wider declines. The closing tone was heavy. Transfers approximated 1,800,000 shares.

Grande Ronde Meat Co.