

EDITORIAL PAGE

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Anyone Who Knows Can Tell the Real Thing



EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM
IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.
LA GRANDE — A city of 10,000 — Extend the city limits.

TODAY'S TEXT

Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth.—Zechariah 5:5.

Bundles for the World

In 1940 and 1941 the powerful armies of Germany and Japan swept like a swarm of locusts through Europe and the Orient, devouring whatever of value lay in their path. And according to available evidence, their pillage of textiles and clothing was particularly thorough.

The output of looms and mills in occupied countries was appropriated. Many persons, especially those with garments of some value, were left only what they were wearing. The passing years have reduced the great majority of people in the Balkans, Poland, Hungary and western Russia, in France, Belgium and Holland, and in the Philippines to a uniformly threadbare state.

Relief workers tell stories of families in Belgium and France which have only one shirt among all the members of both sexes. In Yugoslavia a death notice attracts crowds of shivering people offering fantastic prices for the clothing of the deceased. In Belgrade a woman offered "ample reward" for an old patched shoe that she had lost. From his inspection tour of Leyte, Brig-Gen. Carlos P. Romulo reported that "the greatest need is clothing."

Liberation of many occupied lands has not remedied this situation, but it has made large-scale assistance possible. And so, during the month of April, the people of the United States will be asked to contribute 150,000,000 pounds of used and usable clothing for the destitute men, women and children of war-ravaged countries of Europe and Asia.

The collection will be made through the united national clothing collection, of which Henry J. Kaiser is chairman. The organization is just what the name implies — united, in that it has the sponsorship and assistance of almost every foreign relief group in this country and many of our own charitable associations; national, in that it will function in this and every other community of the nation.

The collected apparel will be distributed, without cost or discrimination, to restore health and decency and self-respect to a vast number of the world's unfortunates. The latest compilation of reports indicates that in liberated Europe alone there are 30,000,000 almost literally naked, and 125,000,000 others in urgent need of clothes, shoes and bedding. So the goal is only for minimal needs.

In his letter inviting Kaiser to head the organization, President Roosevelt wrote: "I feel assured that this appeal will receive the traditionally generous response of the American people."

Throughout the years, Americans have responded to emergencies affecting their own or other people in an immediate, warm-hearted way that has made their generosity truly traditional. It is incredible that they should not respond with the same generosity to help relieve the victims of history's greatest disaster.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—In a highly secret session before the senate military affairs committee last Thursday, General George Marshall, army chief of staff, refused to guess when the end of the war with Germany will come. According to all logic, he said, the German resistance should be at an end now, but there is no sign that the army is collapsing. The Gestapo still retains its hold of terror on Germany.

Marshall pointed out that German gasoline stocks are practically dried up, and that the nazis do not have enough fuel to move their supplies, let alone their armored vehicles and artillery. On the other hand, he said, their supply problem is far simpler than ours because they are fighting at home. Their repair and replacement job for tanks and other vehicles is also comparatively simple. When added armor is knocked out, it means that it is lost if the damage is too much for the field repair bases, while a tank which has suffered far more serious damage can be taken right into a tank factory not so many miles from where it was hit. This is a tremendous advantage, he said.

The chief of staff also told the senators it is a mistake to figure that the Japs will fold up quickly once Germany is out of the war. Although its losses have been heavy, Japan still has a formidable army and vast stores of supplies. He would not estimate the length of time needed to defeat the island empire. But insisted it would be extremely tough going.

Marshall said nothing during this session about his plan to take over as supreme commander in the Pacific once Germany falls, but members of the committee now take that for granted.

Explanation

General MacArthur's army friends in Washington have a unique explanation for his refusal to let Maj. Gen. Norman Kirk, surgeon general of the army, visit Manila on his recent inspection tour. They say privately that no suitable housing was available for General Kirk. One MacArthur supporter, who is familiar with the Kirk incident, added, "When you are a five-star general you don't have to give an explanation for what you do."

Further details of General MacArthur's refusal to let General Kirk touch foot even on the island of Luzon in order to inspect army hospitals there have now leaked out. Kirk, as head of the army medical corps, arrived in Leyte with a staff of medical experts ready to place them in strategic positions. In Luzon fighting was heavy at that time.

As a courtesy to MacArthur, Kirk radioed him from Leyte island that he was coming. He received in reply a message saying that

his presence was not needed.

Scarcely believing his eyes, General Kirk gave MacArthur a chance to change his mind by sending another telegram which said in substance: "Don't understand your message. Do you mean by your telegram number so-and-so that my assistance is not welcome?"

General MacArthur's reply was brief and to the point. It read: "No, repeat No." Kink then got in his plane, boiling mad, and came home.

Note—The war department for some time has been split into the pro-MacArthur and the anti-MacArthur schools. Many of the general's own contemporaries don't like him, feel that he has never given sufficient credit to men who bore the brunt of the Pacific fighting such as General Kreuger, Eichelberger, Kenny, Arnold and others. They also resent the fact that news dispatches from the Pacific must bear the headline "General MacArthur's Headquarters," and point out that in contrast Eisenhower requires no such date line and has given much credit to Generals Patton, Hodges, Simpson, Patch, and Devers, all of whom are well known to the public, whereas few know the names of the generals commanding MacArthur's armies.

Advice to Young Senator

Senator Milton Young, newly-appointed North Dakota republican, was welcomed by a group of his colleagues at a down-town Washington club last week. Each of those present had a few words of advice—mostly facetious—to offer him.

Crusty old Senator Hugh Butler of Nebraska, however, a constant GOP foe of the administration, got rather serious in his remarks. He told Young that although the GOP is a minority in the senate, it has a good organization and is able to make its weight felt.

"Our party organization is an important thing," he said, "but that does not mean that a member is bound to vote with his party at all times. On the really important issues republicans and democrats are expected to vote according to their conscience—even if that means voting against party colleagues."

When it came the turn of Progressive Republican Wayne Morse of Oregon, former WLB member, Morse remarked, "Senator Young, I'm glad to see that twinkle in your eye. You'll need it—you need a sense of humor in the senate."

"As to voting with your party, in the two and a half months that I have been a member of the senate I've found my vote registered against those of the majority of my republican colleagues in a good many instances."

"Only last week" he said, "I found myself

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WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

We can "tighten our belts" to help keep others from starving, can't we?

We've gone on at length about wishing that we could in some small way share the misery our men are having to endure. We've talked a lot of sympathy for the civilians of other countries who have known the real horrors of war—the cold, the hunger, the bombings.

We have said we feel pretty silly about our little sacrifices — so small, so far, they don't even deserve the dignity of the word.

Well, maybe we'll have our chance to prove that we weren't just talking — that we actually feel that way. Maybe, by cutting down on our food — without complaining and without cheating — we can really share what we have with those who need it worse than we do.

It looks as though it is going to be up to us. If we want to take advantage of the opportunity to do something real in the war we can. If we were just talking, we won't tighten our belts now.

We'll get everything we can for ourselves. We'll hoard, we'll get in lines for scarce articles, we'll say: "They won't catch ME short this time." We'll eat as though eating exactly as we used to eat were the most important thing in the world.

But if we meant what we said we'll raise gardens, we'll spend our summer earning, we'll eat what is plentiful and get along with as little as possible of what is scarce.

It looks as though the time has come when we and the world will have a chance to find out just how real our sympathy is.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Tighter government regulation of the quality of wartime clothing and restrictions on trimmings put on women's ready-to-wear apparel are the next orders which OPA will issue in its efforts to hold the line on living orders and assure production of adequate supplies of lower-priced garments.

Prevention of quality depreciation has been put into effect, but OPA is going to attempt it in the apparel field, none the less. At the present time, all manufacturers of apparel are asked to file voluntary statements of specifications on their output, but the new quality control regulations are intended to make the filing of specification statements mandatory, and an enforcement procedure will be worked out to insure that the specifications are lived up to.

Regulation of trim on women's apparel is even more difficult because of its variety. A suit with a few fancy buttons on it is one thing but with a piece of costume jewelry pinned on it becomes something in an entirely different price line. Just how trim can be controlled has not been decided. It could be done by limiting the trim to a certain percentage of price of the garment, or it could be done by limiting the trim to what the manufacturers put on in a base period.

In the meantime, industry opposition to the clothing regulations has pretty largely burned itself out. The hearings before congressman Howard Smith's committee to investigate federal agencies were well attended and the congressmen themselves never got very steamed up by what they were told by the industry representatives. With the interest of congress as a whole now centered on the food situation, the textile and apparel orders may go into effect

with only token resistance.

Opposition to these orders was really centered in the makers of higher-priced fabrics and apparel. They represent approximately 25 per cent of the number of firms in the business, but their output is only from 15 to 20 per cent of the total U. S. apparel production. For a time it was believed that most of these firms would be forced out of business for the duration. Modifications of the orders and a better understanding of how they would work have removed most of these fears.

OPA says consumers should begin to find larger supplies of lower-priced lines of cotton apparel in stores in the very near future. Lower-priced rayon and woolen items may not appear in larger supply before fall.

The real bottleneck in the apparel supply situation is in the spinning of cotton and wool yarns. There is plenty of raw cotton and wool, but a shortage of labor to spin it. In the case of rayon, the shortage is in chemical supply for fiber production. The new OPA and WPB apparel and textile orders have unquestionably caused confusion in the industry, which is a complicated business built up on long established trade practices.

The orders to change these traditional ways of doing business are therefore complicated. But the confusion these orders have caused in the industry are nothing, point out the industry men, if the government war agencies, if compared to what the public confusion would have been if OPA and WPB had done nothing and had merely allowed a bad situation in a short supply of low-cost clothing to get worse. The alternative would probably have been rationing of apparel. Think what fun that would have been.

Side Glances



"John has tried everywhere to hire a maid, but you know, actually, I'm getting used to being without help!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WM. E. MCKENNEY, America's Card Authority

HOW "POINT SYSTEM" PICTURES THE HAND

(This is the second of two articles on the Yarnal "Point System.")

Mr. L. F. Yarnal of Ventnor City, N. J., who advocates the point count system, states that the combination of K J X is grossly undervalued in honor trick counts where it receives only the value of one-half of an honor or trick. When using his point system, the king receives a value of three points and the jack, one. Thus this combination has a value of one full honor trick.

He goes on to state that there is one chance out of three that

- A Q J
- K X
- K Q J X X
- Q X X

the ace and queen of that suit are in partner's hand and two out of three that either the ace or queen will be there.

Here is another example: Taking today's hand, we find the count of seven in spades, three in hearts, six in diamonds and two in clubs for a total of 18. Dividing this by four, we find this hand has four and one-half honor tricks, while the ordinary player would value the hand at between three and three and one-half honor tricks.

It is Mr. Yarnal's opinion that the beginner in bridge fails to place the proper value on queens and jacks when held separately.

Questions & Answers

Q—What six tropical diseases occurred among our South Pacific troops in epidemic form?
A—Malaria, dysentery, dengue, Bancroft's filariasis, scrub typhus, infectious hepatitis.

Q—Where did the Dardanelles strait get its name?
A—From the castle of Dardanus at the southwest entrance.

Q—What great-power nation issues no airmail stamps?
A—Great Britain.

Q—What are the percentages of people in the four blood types?
A Type O, 45 per cent; A, 43 per cent; B, 8 per cent; AB, 4 per cent. Type O can be transfused into any other type; type AB can receive any other type.

By using the point count, the bidder gets a clearer picture of the positive value of his hand and also a better picture of its defensive value against an opposing bid.

Too many players fail to place the proper defensive value on queens and jacks and this point system may help, especially for defensive purposes.

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

O. W. Gulliman, who with his family arrived last fall from Nebraska, purchased the Walter A. Ott farm of 20 acres north of Island City.

Two crows and several dogs were dead from poisoning, and a number more were treated to prevent their death, as a result of a widespread scattering of poison. Most of the dogs killed were valuable or were house pets.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Dunn entertained the Entre Nous card club. Honors for high scores went to Delille Green and to Mrs. Robert Pattison.

15 Years Ago

Dr. W. H. Pfy has been appointed to a national committee in connection with the expansion program of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Neighborhood club's "Oregon Trail beautiful" committee inaugurated a campaign to preserve the natural beauty of the Old Oregon Trail highway, particularly that part between La Grande and the top of Cabbage hill. This part is densely wooded along many sections, and ranks high among the strips of beautiful highways in the west.

10 Years Ago

Following nearly two hours of hearings of protests from citizens, the La Grande school board adjourned without taking action on the question of teacher salary increases.

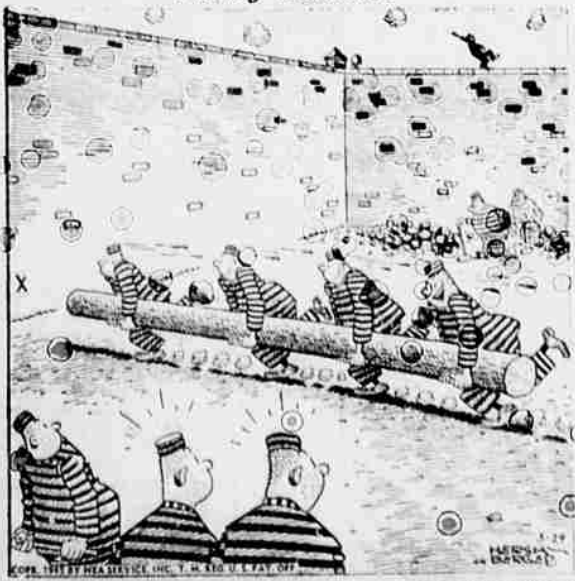
Arnold L. Gralapp, city superintendent of schools, announced winners in the finals of the city declamatory contest which was held for the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Mildred Flesman was winner in the un-humorous section and Richa U. Abrahamson was chosen winner in the humorous section.

This Curious World



Rwitz Korner
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS SIGN BEYOND CALIFORNIA HIGHWAYS IN MEXICO?
ALTO
GREGORY STINGEL, 13 YEAR OLD CHICAGO BOY, BROKE HIS NECK WHILE TRYING TO PULL OFF HIS FOOTBALL SWEATER.
ANSWER: It means "STOP."
NEXT: When autos really were scarce.

Funny Business



"We read about it in an Indian book we borrowed from the library!"

SO THEY SAY

The trouble with planned economy, in spite of its supposed benefits, is that it is impossible to see how such an economy can work without dictatorship.
—Arthur A. Ballantine, former treasury undersecretary.

He (the Jap) hasn't the pilots to fly the planes if he had them, and he hasn't the mechanics to maintain them if you gave him the planes. His good mechanics are down in Rabaul, Bougainville, Yokohama, and in the swamps back of Hollandia.
—Far East AAF Lt. Gen. George C. Kenney.

The great areas and population of the Far East have further to go than the west. They offer one of the greatest opportunities for an expanded world trade and higher standard of living. So it is in our interest to help them all we can.
—Charles P. Taft, state department special assistant.