

EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

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Where the Dawn Comes Up Like Thunder



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

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight.—Proverbs 15:8.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

He who did well in war just earns the right
To begin doing well in peace.
—Robert Browning

Who Cares?

The seventh war loan drive comes at a time when evidently the war is half over, perhaps more than half. But this will not mean a relaxation of the admirable effort of the thousands of men and women who have volunteered to sell these bonds, or an indifferent frame of mind in the millions who are asked to purchase them.

Some think of us as a money-loving people; at least they used to. Our purchasing of bonds, time and again, in drive after drive, has proved that it is not so. Bonds are a good investment—in a tragic, unsound, revolutionary, inflationary era there is none better—but this is not what the individual purchaser thinks of. His inspiration is human, not economic; the sublime example and the bitter plight of some son

or brother or sweetheart or friend who is investing flesh and blood, life and death. We do not count the cost. The way we wage war is exceedingly expensive, maintaining the lines of battle at a safe distance from home, with infinite supplies and prodigious armor, and a high standard of living for the armed man, and painstaking medical and surgical science if and when he comes to grief. Occasionally an anxious statesman or vigilant newspaperman complains a little of our extravagance in this way; of needless experiment, waste of metal, change of plan. Who cares? Right around the world our servicemen stand ready to give their lives; the more of them we can buy back, the better. If there is the remotest possibility that by the expenditure of a small fortune a young man's life can be saved, all right; we regard it as well spent.

In selling this latest issue of war bonds there can be only one kind of sales-resistance, one form of indifference, that is, thoughtlessness. The American civilian is a somewhat careless, forgetful, over-optimistic character. If we stop to think; if we consider the contribution of the fighting man—the empty trouser-leg of the infantryman, the burned and patchworked face of the aviator, the emaciation of the sailor drifting in the lost boat, the typical fever in the blood of the marine, the sickened mind of the prisoner of war—we will not begrudge the surplus of our war-time prosperity, ready cash and creature comfort. We will not put ourselves to shame.

Funny Business



Questions & Answers

- Q—What is a Monroe bomb?
A—A leaflet bomb. This type holds 80,000 leaflets of 5-by-8-inch size.
- Q—What is a klubb?
A—A Red army canteen, counterpart of our USO and Red Cross canteens.
- Q—What is a Tatsuo in Japan?
A—An admiral.
- Q—What three types of rocket charges does the navy use?
A—Incendiary, smoke, high explosive.
- Q—Where is the world's largest refrigerator?
A—At Cheabam army of the Norfolk navy depot. It can hold 39,000,000 pounds of meat. Temperature is maintained at 4 degrees.
- Q—What is Germany's westernmost port?
A—Emden, prewar population 35,000.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Back in 1937-38, Admiral William Leahy, now chief of staff to the White House, devised a strategy against Japan, which, if put into effect, might have prevented Pearl Harbor and even World War II.

Today, the old Leahy strategy is being dusted off, especially on Capitol Hill, as the best means of finishing the war with Japan. It would save thousands of American lives, its proponents claim, and would serve as an example of how wars can be won—or prevented—by naval blockade.

The proposals made by Admiral Leahy constitute one of the most important and unwritten chapters in the history of what happened shortly before the war began. Leahy, then chief of naval operations and one of the best strategists the navy has seen in years, saw all too clearly what was coming both in Europe and Asia. At that time, 1937, Japan had just begun her full-scale invasion of China, and it was Leahy's idea to make an example of Nippon which would show Hitler and Mussolini—then feeling their oats—that the United States meant business and would stand four-square behind the peace machinery of the world.

Therefore, he proposed to Roosevelt a naval blockade of Japan in cooperation with the British fleet, using the peace machinery of the league of nations and the nine-power pact which guarantees the sovereignty of China.

British Start Blockade

President Roosevelt agreed. So did the British. And in the late summer of 1937, the British actually detailed six battleships, twelve cruisers and twenty destroyers to leave British home waters for Singapore. Just at that moment, however, the axis capitals apparently got wind of what was happening, and Mussolini started his unofficial submarine campaign off the coast of Spain which detained the British fleet at Gibraltar.

A couple of months later, however, Roosevelt revived the idea and sent Norman Davis, late head of the Red Cross, to Brussels to a meeting of the nine-power pact signatories called to protect China from Japan. In the interim, Roosevelt had delivered his famous Chicago quarantine speech, warning that the United States might have to help put a quarantine around an aggressor nation. This was part of the build-up for Admiral Leahy's plan to quarantine Japan.

However, the Brussels conference in October, 1937, fizzled—largely because of sabotage by the state department in Washington, and the plan to blockade Japan was dropped. But Admiral Leahy revived it again a year later, when, in December 1938, the Japs sank the U. S. gunboat Panay and the British gunboat Ladybird.

Leahy recognized this for what it was, a deliberate attempt by the Jap war lords to test how much insult the United States would take, and to make Britain and the USA lose face with the Chinese.

The British were also willing to cooperate. And, Leahy pointed out, in another year, war, inevitably breaking out in Europe, would tie up the British feet and they could not possibly help us in the Pacific. Russia, he also pointed out, had sixty submarines at Vladivostok, ready to help us cut off all scrap iron, all oil, all cotton and copper from Japan. Without these, he argued, the Japanese war machine would be paralyzed.

Less than one year later, Hitler had invaded Poland, the British fleet was desperately needed to defend British home waters, and the fat was in the fire. From that point on there was no possible way the United States could blockade Japan—though many people have never understood why we went to the opposite extreme and increased our shipments of oil and scrap iron to Japan so that she laid in tremendous reserves before Pearl Harbor. (Ambassador Joseph C. Grew, the man chiefly responsible for the policy of selling oil and scrap iron, has now been made under secretary of state.)

Japan Can Be Starved

But beginning with V-E day last week, the possibility of blockading Japan for the first time since 1939 was completely reversed. Since V-E day, the British fleet is entirely free to operate in the Pacific. So are Russian submarines. So is the whole might of the U. S. navy, now no longer needed to watch for submarines in the Caribbean or the Atlantic.

Therefore, blockade proponents argue. Why not intensify the B-29 raids over Japan's industrial cities, clamp down the iron-clad blockade originally proposed by Admiral Leahy, and then wait. The end of Japan would come in only a few months—without the sacrifice of American lives.

Naval brass hats don't favor this idea, but nevertheless you are going to hear a lot more about Admiral Leahy's strategy in the future.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

She received word a few months ago that her husband had been killed in action.

She took the news with her chin up, determined to go about the business of living as normally as she could.

Now "they are saying" that she took the news of her husband's death too well. That, after all, she seems so little changed, so she couldn't have loved him very much.

Why do people praise the courage of men in battle and then turn around and condemn the young widows who are trying to face life with the same kind of courage?

Why do people want to see these young widows of servicemen make a show of their broken hearts?

Why expect a girl who has, perhaps, known only a few months of married life, followed by a year or two of separation, to sit back and mourn her husband's death for years?

After all, these women are young. And if some of them can adjust easily to the tragedy of being widowed, that is a great blessing. A girl of twenty or twenty-five has her life before her.

No one would be benefited by her going to pieces and cracking up emotionally. She would just become a problem to her own family and friends.

So the person who says a war widow is "taking it too well" is lacking in both sympathy and understanding. The young widow who waited faithfully for her husband's return while there was hope of his coming back to her some day has done all that she can do.

When she knows he isn't coming back, then she must get about the business of living her own life to make it as worthwhile as possible.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

One by-product of this United Nations conference not on the official agenda is the way cultural relations program is paying off an extra dividend. For in addition to just writing a United Nations charter filled with high-sounding principles on insuring the future peace and security of the world, some of the delegates are interested in doing something more practical and material about it right now.

Consequently they are taking time off from their conference labors not only to see the sights of America, but also to pick up information on what goes on in this part of the world in such diverse subjects as orange growing, public health, rural school lunches, historical research, labor legislation, student exchange and stuff like that. For instance:

Jules Basdevant, assistant delegate for France, professor at the Faculty of Law of Paris, has been putting in some time at the Hoover War Memorial library, Stanford university. Formerly there were two other famous collections of documents on wars, revolutions and peace, one in Paris and the other in Berlin. The German collection in Berlin is believed to have been completely destroyed and the French collection was badly damaged. Dr. Basdevant is making preliminary arrangements to have the Hoover library documents microfilmed so as to bring the Paris collection up to date.

French technical advisor Jean Chatenet is visiting Stanford to do research for future reorganization of the French ministry of labor. Rene Hoffner, another French advisor, met U. S. economists on the Stanford faculty and will return here to lecture.

All Akbar Stassi, minister of state for Iran and also a chancellor of the University of Teheran is interested in U. S. higher education. Presidents Donald B. Tressider of Stanford and Herman Wells of Indiana have invited him to visit their campuses.

Mrs. Isabel P. de Vidal, Uruguayan senator and educator, is visiting San Francisco schools and will go to the University of California extension center in Berkeley.

Egyptian delegates, interested in improving the citrus fruit crops of their country, are visiting California orange groves.

All these and other similar examples fit into the big pattern of improving international working relationships for peace times and several representatives of the U. S. department of state division of cultural cooperation have been assigned to the San Francisco conference to help the delegates meet the people who can do them some good. Once established, these contacts are continued through the years and lead to international understanding through personal relationships.

If this sounds a bit thin, it doesn't add up that way at all. Fact is that dozens of foreign delegates and their advisors were educated in the United States. Galo Plaza Lasso of Ecuador was a football star at Stanford. Jerge Fidel Duron of Honduras studied law at Loyola. Many of the Middle Eastern delegates attended the American universities in Athens, and Beirut, Syria, and Roberts college, Istanbul. Five of the ten delegates from China went to U. S. colleges and universities.

One of the principal amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks proposals made by China and accepted by the other big powers calls for specific provision "to promote educational and other forms of cultural cooperation." What you have just been reading about is this same brand of cultural cooperation in a great big way.

Many of the U. S. experts at San Francisco held degrees from foreign universities. Their first hand knowledge of foreign countries and languages helps them wage peace now. Conversely, when students from foreign countries attend U. S. schools and then go back home to assume positions of leadership in their governments, they are among the first to be considered as delegates to conferences like this one being held now in San Francisco. That's how all this cultural relations business pays off its contribution to peace.

Side Glances



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McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

SHREWD HOLD-BACK BEATS 3 NO TRUMP

One of our outstanding life masters, T. Sgt. Phil Abramsohn,

♠ 983	♥ 84	♦ A 85	♣ K Q 10 8 3
♠ K J 10 5	♥ Q J 3 2	♦ J 6 2	♣ 4 2
Abramsohn			
♠ 7 4	♥ 10 9 6	♦ 10 9 7 3	♣ A J 7 5
Dealer			
♠ A Q 6 2	♥ A K 7 5	♦ K Q 4	♣ 9 6
Duplicate—Both vul.			
South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 N T	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening—♥ 2. 15			

where he is an instructor in blind flying by instrument. I saw the sergeant put up a nice defense on this hand in the Mayfair duplicate game.

South won the opening lead with the king of hearts and immediately led the nine of clubs. Most of the East players took this trick with the jack and returned the ten of hearts. The declarer held off but when East continued with the six, the declarer won, then led another club.

Now, regardless of what East does, the declarer has three club tricks, three diamonds, two hearts and a spade.

But by refusing to win the nine of clubs and waiting to win the second club trick, Abramsohn gained the timing on the hand and thus defeated the contract.

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

The Eastern Oregon Producers' association held its quarterly business meeting in La Grande. Mrs. Lucy Miller left for Pittsburg, Kansas, for a visit. Dr. H. S. Brownson was named to the Carnegie library board.

15 Years Ago

Mrs. Sherwood Williams, Mrs. E. W. Ely and Mrs. P. S. Robinson returned from Eugene where they spent the weekend attending festivities on the university campus.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Ainsworth returned after a week spent in Portland on business and pleasure.

Vernal Shoemaker was a member of the rifle team at the University of Oregon which qualified for the National Intercollegiate rifle matches.

10 Years Ago

Three La Grande girls, Lois Kathleen Hansell, Edris Clare Maguire and Georgia LaVelle Richey completed nursing courses at Emanuel hospital in Portland and were graduated.

Jack Lloyd, 66-year old soldier of fortune, adventurer, veteran of several wars and revolutions, and known throughout the world as the "Original Globetrotting Reporter," spent the day in La Grande.

This Curious World

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TWO BROTHERS, MIKE AND BOB GARBARK, AMERICAN LEAGUE BASEBALL CATCHERS, HAD IDENTICAL BATTING AVERAGES LAST YEAR.

MIKE .261
BOB .261

Quiz Corner

Q—Which U. S. state will not get caught short on cork again. The state alone has 5,000 mallets, 500,000 corks, and has shelled 165,000 since Pearl Harbor.

ANSWER: California. This state has been found very suitable for the growing of cork oaks.

WHERE'S ELMER?

ANSWER: California. This state has been found very suitable for the growing of cork oaks.

NEXT: In the ashes of Vesuvius.