

EDITORIAL PAGE

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It May Do What Nothing Else Could Do



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

Outlawing Atomic War

When peace is restored the United States government should and doubtless will lead the way in renouncing and outlawing the use of atomic-energy explosives in any future war.

The atomic bomb is not a means of warfare that we would have used except in the last extremity of necessity. It came after Japan had refused a peace offer that was just, honorable and, in view of the Japs' barbarous conduct of this war, extremely magnanimous.

This government need feel no shame for having used it. If one must choose, certainly an instantaneous death by atomic bombing is more humane than the brutality of the Bataan death march, or the slow death by torture, starvation and disease of thousands of allied soldiers and civilians.

In view of his past record, the enemy's shocked protests are in particularly bad taste. Yet protests have come not only from Japan, but even from this country and especially from England.

The providential circumstances which prevented Germany's development of the atomic bomb before her defeat has given this country not only the first possession of this weapon, but also the

first responsibility for its future. And while the world, knowing the Japanese record, has no cause to censure our use of this weapon, it does have the right to expect us to take the initiative in banning it as an instrument of war.

In this connection, the analogous case of poison gas might be noted. The nations of the world outlawed its use after World War I. Yet they did not abandon research into its further possibilities, or development of defenses against it.

Chinese sources claim that the Japs have employed gas in this war. But if they have, it has not been a general practice, and there is no record of its use against Americans. The Germans did not use gas, although they, like the Japs, would have had no moral scruples against it.

All the belligerents had poison gas ready to use if the others started it. The evident reason why it was not added to the other horrors of this war was that the Axis nations knew the allies could beat them at the same game.

Such a procedure might guide the United States in dealing with the atomic bomb. Let us outlaw it. But let us not be so foolish as to abandon its research and development. No one need fear that we shall ever start an aggressive war. But until peace is secure and disarmament feasible, we should maintain our advantage in atomic warfare until every potential warlord would know that, however deadly a weapon he might develop, the United States would have an even deadlier one in defense.

Funny Business



"He insists on it—he says he's been spick-and-span in the army long enough!"

SO THEY SAY

In politics, it is easy to confuse personalities and policies. There are so many high-ranking New Deal casualties already to make them very happy with Mr. Truman.

—Alf M. Landon of Kansas.
 Air-mindedness on the citizens' part, consistently maintained, is essential to keeping America first in peacetime and thus more secure against attack.
 —San Antonio Texas, Express.

Revelation of the secret of nature, (the atomic bomb) long mercifully withheld from man, should arouse the most solemn reflections in the mind and conscience of every human being capable of comprehension.
 —Winton Churchill.

The only way to prevent these terrible wars is to provide hard, tough punishment for anybody starting them without provocation.
 —Belleville, Ill., Advocate.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Twenty-three years ago, this writer, visiting in Japan, got considerable first-hand information about the emperor from a young Japanese Quaker, Renzo Sawada, who had been picked to accompany Hirohito, then crown prince, on a trip to see the western world.

Why Sawada, educated in a Quaker school in Tokyo, was chosen to accompany the young prince on this history-making trip, I do not know, except that the imperial council of education wanted a commoner of Hirohito's age who spoke English and French to travel with the future emperor.

Never before had a ruler of Japan left its shores. In the past scarcely was the emperor even seen by his subjects. Some idea of his isolation can be gained from the fact that the word "Mika" means "awful," the word "Do" means "place," and the name "Mikado" means "awful-place."

In the old days, priests came to worship at the "awful place," but they never saw the emperor whose other name even today is "Tenno," meaning "Son of Heaven." The emperor is synonymous with the sun and from this comes the Japanese flag, with sixteen spreading rays symbolic of the rising sun and the emperor.

In those days the mikado was the theoretical owner of all the land and all the people and their possessions. He was their god and protector. His lance and shield came from Ama, "the ancestral region." Thus arose the cult of shintoism which acutely means "rule of the superiors" or "way of the gods." Even the word for government in Japan, "matusurigo" means "shrine visiting" or "religion."

Modernizing the Emperor

Thus during most of Japanese history; in fact up until just after the arrival of Commander Perry in 1852, the mikado was an ethereal spiritual being, not a ruler; and it

came as a definite shock to many Japanese their emperor-to-be should sail off to England and France to absorb western culture.

In fact, some of the more intense patriots actually threw themselves on the railroad tracks in front of the train carrying Hirohito to Yokohama in protest against the departure.

Naturally Hirohito may have changed a lot during the 25 years since his trip. Naturally, also my friend Sawada was prejudiced in his favor. However, the story of that voyage was one of a young man anxious to mingle with his fellowmen, astounded the emperor-worshippers by wrestling on the deck with his aides, get a bloody nose, and dance democratically with the servants of the duke of Atholl in the same "barbaric" Scotland, which, according to shinto priests, is made from the mud and seafoam left over after creation of the "heavenly isles"—Japan.

Hirohito even managed to deliver a public speech to the lord mayor of London; and no emperor in all the history of Japan had ever delivered a public speech before. In all Japanese history, furthermore, no emperor had purchased an article of any shape, size or form. In Paris, however, Hirohito insisted on going alone and buying a necktie, and later a pearl for his mother.

Hirohito Goes Underground

His greatest ambition, however, was to ride on the Paris subway or "metro." Before leaving Tokyo, Hirohito's staff had been strictly forbidden to let the heir to the throne ride on any subway; but despite this, the crown prince bolted most of his staff and ventured underground. He insisted on buying the tickets himself and handed them to the fat lady guarding the gate.

But he handed them to her in a bunch, instead of spreading them out fan shape, so that she could not punch them quickly. All See WASHINGTON . . . Page 6

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

All right, girls. You can relax now. And stop talking about your plans for taking this or that foreign language and turn your thoughts toward new curtains, and what shade would do most for the living room walls.

It looks as though you aren't going to be following your men to Europe. Evidently President Truman is one of those men who believes woman's place is in the home, for the army newspaper Stars and Stripes reports that the president is opposed to sending wives and families of United States occupation troops to Germany.

Of course, he didn't give that as his reason for his opposition to American women being sent to join their men abroad.

According to Stars and Stripes the reason he gave was that he didn't want Americans to "settle in Europe."

But it doesn't look to Mrs. G. I. Joe as though the danger of American men settling in Europe is tied up with their getting their wives and families over there.

From where she sits, it looks to the service wife as though the American men most likely to settle in foreign countries are those who fall in love with the women of those countries. And the way to encourage such alliances is to leave American women over here, and keep American men overseas.

But Mrs. Joe will quietly give up her plans for getting to Europe, if the president comes through with his own plan. And that is to get veterans of the European campaigns back home through replacements as quickly as possible.

What Mrs. Joe really wants is not a trip to Europe—though that would be an experience that would make her feel less like a little stay-at-home compared with her travelled husband. What she wants is a chance to resume her marriage again. And if she can do that she will be perfectly happy to stay right on in Podunk. But if her husband has been in Europe two years or more you can't blame her for thinking Uncle Sam ought to start considering her marriage and what is happening to it.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16—Rep. Claire Boothe Luce of Connecticut is among the latest of the more than 100 members of the house who have now endorsed the Murray-Patman full employment bill, and behind that is one of those strange coincidence stories. Mrs. Luce's husband, Henry, is of course, publisher of the Time-Life-Fortune group. Life magazine has come out in favor of the full employment bill, while Fortune has opposed it. When this inconsistency was called to Editor Luce's attention, there was a big luncheon pow-wow of the two conflicting editorial boards. Shortly after that Mrs. Luce asked to be included as a supporter of the full employment idea.

J. Monroe Johnson, office of defense transportation director, found out the war department was speeding up its schedule to bring the soldiers home from Europe through an accidental telephone conversation. Johnson says he had called up Maj. Gen. Charles P. Gross, commander of the army transportation corps, to ask him about something else. They chatted pleasantly till General Gross mentioned casually that the speedup in the redeployment program was going well. Johnson asked what speed-up and Gross told him the speedup that was to bring the boys back home in 10 months instead of 18. That was the first Johnson had heard of it. He immediately started chopping off Pullman service and the transportation crisis started from there.

Interesting detail of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee report on the San Francisco United Nations Charter, which Senator Tom Connally of Texas presented with such fine cratory and pride, is that it wasn't written by any one of the senators not by any member of the committee staff, which consists of one clerk and a couple of secretaries. This staff obviously isn't adequate to do the job and the senators didn't have time. So the report was written in the department of state at the senators' request, after the foreign relations committee had held its hearings and heard all the favorable evidence presented by state department spokesmen. As the charter was the department's pet child, P. S., the department surprised no one by writing a favorable report.

Members of the senate war investigating committee who held hearings in the European theater of operations earlier in the summer are just now getting the last of

their records back in Washington. The six senators under Harley M. Kilgore of West Virginia split up into three subcommittees. Three shorthand reporters went with them to take testimony, but when the load got too great extra stenographic help had to be borrowed from the Army. The Senators then wanted to bring the stenographers back to Washington so the testimony could be transcribed at once. Army said the help couldn't be spared, so the Senator came home with no record of what they had gone after. Gradually the record got typewritten. Army gave the copy to American embassy for transportation home in secret diplomatic pouch. The records then lay in the embassy for two weeks waiting for Army transport. After they got to Washington, Army again delivered the records to state department where they lay a few days more waiting for delivery to the Mead committee. Now the senate is adjourning and there will be further delay in publicizing all the red hot stuff the committee uncovered.

Department of state administrators have been trying to get out a new directory of the organization for over a year, so that everybody could tell where everybody else belonged. But everytime thing gets set, somebody comes along with new ideas for reorganization. The department got its first big reorganization in January 1944 and another in December. Copy for a directory was completed in April but was held up. One thing it could have shown was that the office of Secretary Stettinius had a staff of over 30. Secretary Hull used to run it with a staff of six. But now the new secretary, Justice James F. Byrnes wants another reorganization. The directory editors have about given up.

This constant reorganization of government departments is what drives crazy most of the specialists in federal administration. For instance, the new 1945 edition of U. S. Government Manual came out recently. It's supposed to be the last word on who's who and what's what in Washington. Every issue gets thicker. The current number is over 700 pages. It went to press just after President Roosevelt died. That gave the editors a choice of scrapping the whole thing or letting it ride. In the interests of saving paper, they let it ride, with a note on the fly lead admitting that Harry Truman was now president. They'll get out a second edition when things get organized, if they ever do.

Side Glances



"We're so glad you've moved into the neighborhood—we'd like to have our little boy get used to playing nice with little girls!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

America's Card Authority

IT'S A ROUGH DEAL, BUT RUFFING WINS!

Today's hand came from Lawrence Held of Coral Gables, Florida. Bridge plays an important part in the recreation of the people of Florida. They have some very interesting rubber games. The declarer was certainly disappointed when the dummy sent

or heart to return. North discarded his other spade and ruffed in dummy.

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

The interstate commerce commission yesterday settled one of the most important passenger rate controversies which it has ever been called upon to review when it handed down its decision in the Ogden gateway case. As a consequence, La Granders can't buy tickets over the D&RG any more.

While there were some that were foiled, the general reports from grouse fields yesterday have a tone of plenty. The spring was evidently propitious for young grouse, and the consequence is that the feeding grounds are well stocked up.

15 Years Ago

In La Grande, in about half an hour yesterday, seventy-one hundredths of an inch of rain fell, one of the heaviest downpours in recent years. Storm sewers were in several cases inadequate to take off the flood water for several minutes.

In the women's country club golf championship tournament, now being played, Mrs. L. K. Kinzel defeated Mrs. C. M. Bohnenkamp four and three. Mrs. W. C. Perkins won from Mrs. C. H. Reynolds, one up, and Mrs. R. V. Murphy beat Mrs. John Thiesen six and four.

10 Years Ago

La Granders were shocked today to hear of the deaths of Will Rogers and Wiley Post, killed in a plane crash 15 miles from Point Barrow, Alaska.

Colon R. Eberhard was elected to the board of governors of the new Oregon state bar organization last night.

That the three-way agreement between the city, state highway commission, and the Union Pacific railroad on the \$90,000 under-grade crossing re-routing the La Grande-Wallowa lake highway from its present location to Spruce street, has been executed by all three parties was learned today during the public service commissioner's hearing at the courthouse.

BARBS

If we had just thought to drop the first atomic bomb on Tokyo, the Hirohito question might never have come up.

The Navy is figuring on putting more room in the seat of sailors' pants. We don't know when—just sit tight, boys!

The new fall hats are on display in the store windows. At least that's what we think they are.

It doesn't seem fair to make discharged war heroes go to banquets just after their other hardships are over.

This Curious World



NEXT: How tablecloth doodlers get that way