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W. C. MARTIN

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CRYSTAL GAZING

There was a time when the people relied on the experts to tell them what was going to happen in the future. Today, the trend is in the opposite direction. The experts go to the people to sound them out on the future.

"Cracker-box sessions" and on radio forums, one of the most frequently discussed subjects is: what's going to happen after the war? The U. S. Chamber of Commerce, in seeking the answer to this question, put it up to the American people. It made three surveys to gauge the buying intentions of American Families.

In its latest study, the Chamber found the people more optimistic than in the two previous surveys. The majority of them believe that the first year after the war ends will be one of prosperity, although 86 per cent are convinced that it will take more than six months for the factories of the country to reconvert to peacetime civilian production.

While 55 per cent expected the immediate post-war period to be prosperous, some 3 per cent foresaw "lots of unemployment" in the first year of peace and 13 per cent expected conditions to be "somewhere in between" prosperity and depression.

The survey also showed that approximately 64 per cent of the country's families want to spend \$20,000,000,000 for consumers' durable goods—such as automobiles, homes and household appliances within six months after the war.

FROM RUT TO GRAVE AND VICE VERSA

Commenting on the Wagner Murray bill, which if passed would create a monopoly in the field of medicine, one editor says: "Frankly, I am less concerned with the welfare of the physicians than I am with the tremendous strides toward the further regimentation of American life, which will be taken if this bill is passed. Legitimate business has already been put in a rut. It is proposed to put the medical profession in a rut. Next one profession after another will be put in a rut. And the only difference between a rut and a grave is that the sides of the grave are slightly higher. But in time the rut will be deep enough.

If we recall the American public sorter got in a rut in the twelve years preceding Pearl Harbor. First in the belief that wars could not happen and second that all forms of federal aid would cure all of our ills in the drift of the world trend toward all sorts of isms.

Bad as war may be, it has certainly gotten a good many of us out of the rut so far as concerns the disruption of normal life and doing without a good many of the luxuries. Ruts have their bad points. Getting into them never did any of us any good, socially, economically or financially. The rut of federal regulation is painful enough now. Let's don't let it get any worse. We can get out of the rut by doing more for ourselves and depending less on government aid.

SLAUGHTERING THE DAIRY COWS

The following item from the state department of agriculture tells of the plight of the dairyman:

Most Oregon slaughterers and butchers have slaughtered on the average 15 per cent more dairy cattle, including heifers, over normal years, according to a compilation from a questionnaire submitted to slaughtering houses in various sections of the state by the state department of agriculture.

The questionnaire, sent to representative plants though not to every one in the state, shows increases in dairy slaughtering over normal times ranging from 5 to 50 per cent in plants where there has been a definite climb. About a third of the operators reported only a normal dairy animal kill and three plants estimated a decrease, ranging from 20 to 50 per cent, over previous years.

This survey, started and completed within the last month, offers concrete figures from the best possible source on a situation which the department of agriculture has insisted steadily exists in the dairying industry.

Several operators who reported killing no more dairy animals than in normal times and even those who reported a decrease over normal times, took the trouble to point out that more dairy animals have been offered for slaughter and some declared that while they had not handled more at their plants, they were sure that more dairy animals than usual had been killed by farmers for farm use and storage in lockers.

Due to higher point values placed on beef, the butcher has not been able to buy the beef that is offered, one plant said in explanation of its estimated decrease.

"This year the dairyman has been unable to sell his cull cows to the butcher so will be forced absolutely either to black market them or to keep them over and budget his hay supply accordingly—half starving the whole bunch as purchase of additional hay is out of the question owing to price and availability," a coast operator wrote in connection with his questionnaire.

"All beef," this man wrote further, "has taken it 'on the chin' all fall. First veal, pork and mutton points were reduced; then to butter and dairy products points were added and beef left high, making it the toughest seller of the lot when normally it would have been the easiest."

Another slaughterer declared more dairy cattle are offered than he has ever seen in the many years he has been in the business.

"We are fighting not for democracy; not for four, or five, or a dozen freedoms. We are fighting for our very existence as a nation."—Edward V. Robertson, U. S. Senator from Wyoming

SUSPEND SLAUGHTER QUOTAS

To facilitate marketing and slaughter of record numbers of livestock produced by U. S. farmers, slaughter quotas (for civilian consumption) until further notice have been suspended by the WFA.

First Incendiary

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DO WE DESERVE FREEDOM?

Mothers, wives, sweethearts of service men, how much do you deserve what he (your man) is fighting for? Has your memory dimmed to his loyalty and love in the months that he has been away? When he was with you, how concerned you would have been if he had come to you wounded and bleeding and asked you to bandage his wounds. You would have spared nothing to ease his pain. He may be wounded on the battlefield and because you have not done your part there may be no dressings to cover his wounds. Because there are no dressings to cover those wounds, he may lose his life.

There are many faithful women who are working at essential jobs and who cannot go to the Red Cross rooms to work; there are some with infants and some who are ill or cannot see, but this percentage is small. Some say they cannot leave their children to go, but they always manage when there is a party or dance they want to attend. Some say it makes them nervous; others have other excuses. That loved one is not giving excuses, he is fighting, fighting for you and his country. He too gets tired and nervous. He faces dangers and endures hardships that you will never know. He is giving his life's blood. What are you doing to stop it?

While you go to clubs, attend dances and shows he is out there suffering. I'm glad he doesn't know that his loved ones are slackers. But maybe he does know.

Some say "let the government furnish the dressings." Who is the government. We, the people. Part of the people are out there fighting and if we at home don't do our part, then we are not deserving of the freedom and peace they are fighting for.

There are a few faithful workers in the Red Cross rooms and I know they will be rewarded. May no dark shadow cross their path.

If you have no son, husband, sweetheart, father or brother in the service, surely you have a friend there. If not, then why not go and make dressings for that lonely man in the service who has no one at home.

—A Mother of a beloved son overseas.

BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin H. Wiscarson of Culp Creek are the parents of a 9½ pound daughter born Tuesday, December 21, at the McFarland maternity home. The baby has been named Marian Louise.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd DeYoung announce the birth of a daughter, Judith Ann, born Sunday, December 19, at the McFarland maternity home. She weighed 7¼ pounds.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beach of Roseburg announce the arrival of a son, born Saturday, December 18 at the McFarland maternity home. The baby weighed 10¼ pounds and has been named Vernon Roberts.

Born at the McFarland maternity home Tuesday, December 21, a son to Lt. and Mrs. Thomas Cox. The baby has been named Gary Bruce and weighed 9½ pounds. Lt. Cox is in the service with the marines and Mrs. Cox is making her home with her mother at Drain.

At the Sacred Heart hospital, Eugene, Wednesday, December 22, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Russell Smith. He weighed 9 pounds 2 ounces and has been named Gregory James.

According to latest estimates, there are about 360 billion board feet of merchantable saw timber in Oregon.



BEST WISHES FOR A CHRISTMAS FILLED WITH JOY!

MOUNTAIN STATES POWER COMPANY
"A Self-Supporting, Tax-Paying, Private Enterprise"

Washington Letter

(By Harris Ellsworth)

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 18—We have just about finished up the year 1943—the first session of the 78th Congress. By the time this letter appears in print the Congress will be adjourned for the holidays.

The news services, special correspondents and some of the news magazines will, of course, sum up the work of the session. I shall therefore make no discussion of details here. Instead I want to discuss the general picture of the session.

The 78th Congress is the first one since the landslide in 1932 to be on a balanced and independent basis. It is the first one since 1932 that has not bowed instantly to the will of the executive—it is the first Congress since the advent of the New Deal that cannot be called a rubber stamp Congress.

This situation developed with amazing suddenness in the 1942 elections. It seems to me we have gone through this entire year—the entire first session—without being able to adjust to the new situation, a condition totally new to all but a mere handful of old-timers. For ten years the minority membership has been so small as to be entirely powerless and for the same period the majority members have, in fact, been equally powerless because they have been dominated by the wishes of the President and his advisers.

In other words, for the first time in 10 years we have an independent congress—but a congress that has not yet found itself. During this first session we have, in my opinion, been going through a period of adjustment to this new condition. Congress is a ponderous body and does not accommodate itself quickly to radical changes in its character—and the 1942

elections certainly did make such a change.

Consequently there has been considerable confusion and what might fairly be called fumbling on some of the major controversial issues. But this is a working congress and a lot of fine constructive legislation has been acted upon. This has been unspectacular, has not made the big headlines, and is generally classified under the head of minor legislation, but it has been good constructive work.

This is my last letter until the new session convenes in January.

For some time I have been wondering how I could do what I would so very much like to do—send Christmas greetings to all of my thousands of friends in the Fourth District. I can't send Christmas cards—that would be a physical impossibility. What I would like to do would be to write each one of you a letter conveying Christmas greetings and my very sincere wishes for the New Year—and so this is my letter to you, wishing you a pleasant holiday season and the best possible for the year 1944.

4-H MOTHERS HOLD CHRISTMAS PARTY

The London 4-H Mothers Club held their annual Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Leon Morton on December 15th. The guests were greeted at the door by jingling bells and the living room was decorated with a gaily bedecked tree, holiday greens and candles. A buffet luncheon was served at noon followed by the gift exchange.

Work for the afternoon was cutting out cartoons and jokes from magazines to make scrapbooks for service men. This work will be continued at the next club meeting which will be held on January 5th at the home of Mrs. Mary Jo Phillips. There will also be election of officers at this time. Members were asked to bring old magazines and scissors.

TONSILLECTOMY AND NOSE OPERATIONS DO NOT ASSURE REDUCTION OF COLDS

"Enlarged tonsils and adenoids may harbor infection and so favor the development of colds; on the other hand studies have shown that children may be no more free of colds after removal of tonsils and adenoids or after nasal operations than before."

—By Dr. W. W. Bauer, Director of Bureau of Health and Public Instruction of the A.M.A. in Your Health.

Dr. H. A. Hagen.

Guests at the Christmas party were:

Mrs. Virginia Keeting, Mrs. Winnifred Layton, Mrs. Oliver Freeman and Mrs. Roy Ewing.

TUBES FROM COAL

A post-war product which will be welcomed by motorists has been developed by the Glenn Martin aircraft people. It is an inert tube made of coal, salt, limestone and water. It is not a synthetic rubber but a plastic and tests of 8,000 miles have failed to disclose any sign of wear. It is nonporous and therefore will not leak air. Its general use would release 1,300,000 pounds of rubber a month for other purposes.

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★ LUMBER MARCHES FORWARD ★