

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Objection to War, not to Service

When eight obscure divinity students in the east choose a term in federal prison rather than merely to register for selective military service, knowing all the time that they will not have to serve in the army, that is one thing. When a former Salem boy, known to thousands here principally because of his athletic prowess, takes the same course that is the same thing, only different. Different in that it strikes home; also in that there is a better opportunity to judge and possibly to understand his motives.

It is possible to know, for example, that Paul Ackerman, Methodist minister of Portland, former Willamette football player and father of four children, is 100 per cent serious and sincere in what he is doing. It is possible to know that he is not seeking notoriety, because that definitely is not a part of his nature. The present writer is ready to swear to that in court. It is possible to judge, too, that Paul Ackerman is not looking at the world upside down. As center on the Bearcat team, he some practice at that, looking back through the archway of his legs; and the test of a good center is ability to see the world right side up after the ball is snapped.

When the eight eastern divinity students were sentenced to federal prison The Statesman ventured to express an opinion which it described as, and thought to be, "not unsympathetic." A local member of the Christian Pacifists retorted, however, with a letter strongly intimating that this department didn't understand the principles involved. We wouldn't in the least mind pleading guilty to that. But we try to be understanding and open-minded; and the eight divinity students didn't make us understand; neither did the letter-writer; and neither does Paul Ackerman. Probably we're remarkably thick-headed; still we can't help wondering how many people do understand. And if he can't make a great many people understand, what is the point in Paul Ackerman going to prison?

Well, we are beginning to understand part of it. Paul Ackerman isn't trying to avoid military service; he would never in the world be called. His objection, then, is not to the selective service program—except as a minor incident—but to war. He thinks war is idiotic. Well, who disagrees with that? He thinks something can be done about it. Some people disagree with that, but even they will applaud anyone who will try. For that matter, almost the entire nation is trying to do something about it, though methods differ and give rise to suspicions of bad faith.

Paul Ackerman differs from the majority, as nearly as we can see, only in two respects: (1) He does not think it necessary to oppose force with force, even though the defensive force be merely potential; and (2) he believes it is his duty as a Christian to stand alone against his nation and the world as a pioneer, a martyr if you please, though it is not clear whether he hopes to influence others and thus actually to help move the world toward everlasting peace, or is concerned primarily with his own conscience. Perhaps it is best to assume that he has both ideas in mind.

Since his revolt is against war rather than the selective service program, the justice in sending him to prison scarcely needs further discussion. There remain two questions; Ackerman's martyrdom—we are not suggesting that he would thus describe it—and his pacifist convictions. As for the first, pardon us if we are not greatly agitated. He wants to go to prison. Well, other men have gone to prison for less. Thomas Mott Osborne went to prison to find out what was wrong with prisons; others have gone there to get material for books, and still others in the hope of saving souls. We don't know about the eight eastern students, but we do know that Paul Ackerman will be a good influence in prison because he won't be sanctimonious. He may have a rough time at first, but the men will come to respect him. We don't know whether he will save any souls or not, but we would gauge his chances there as better than in the pulpit. At any rate, his life's work won't be interrupted.

As for his convictions, we can respect them, we can agree up to a certain point, but there we will have to stop. It appears to be fair to ask: What would happen if every American followed Paul Ackerman's course, while the rest of the world remained unconverted? Norway and Denmark, each in a slightly different sense, supply the practical answer. The road to universal and lasting peace must be through the enlightenment of nations, not individuals. True, it must begin with individuals, but that is already accomplished. A majority in every nation opposes war. Wars occur only when the rulers of one nation ignore the popular will. So the solution is not in the individual conscience, but in the responsibility of governments. Until irresponsible governments are blasted out of existence, there seems nothing for practical pacifists to do but to fight—or to help arm their nations so they will not have to fight.

Strikes in Defense Industries

Shortly after the nation came to gaping realization that national defense was an immediate problem and that defense industry was its most urgent item, it was widely trumpeted that organized labor would cooperate by avoiding strikes or, if it became necessary to strike in an industry which was partly engaged in defense work and partly in domestic production, labor would continue with the defense jobs and fight it out in the domestic sector.

Some sections of organized labor have fulfilled that pledge to date. When Pacific Northwest ports were tied up recently by a jurisdictional maritime dispute, cargoes labeled "defense" were handled and went through.

The first major departure from this laudable policy occurred in the Vultee aircraft factory in California. The second was the aluminum company walkout in Pennsylvania. The aircraft plant was engaged wholly, the aluminum plant partly, in defense work.

The aircraft plant strike involved issues which normally might justify a walkout but recent dispatches indicated that agreement had been reached on all these issues and that the remaining dispute involved a no-strike clause demanded by the company as a part of the new agreement. There also were reports that the principal barrier to agreement was the inebriated condition of the federal "mediator."

In contrast, the aluminum plant strike allegedly involved no more valid an issue than the continued employment of a man who had belonged to the union but who refused to pay his back dues and according to the union version, had threatened one of its officers.

The public recognizes that labor organizations cannot in justice be asked to surrender vital principles because of the defense program's urgency; the obligation to "get along" falls equally upon employers. Yet the national interest—and the union workers are a part of the nation—requires that in one way or another they must settle their problems by some means which does not hold up production. Nor should they forget public opinion.

Organized labor has made some striking gains in the last eight years; that is why it reelected the national administration. It has had public opinion on its side a considerable share of the time; sometimes public opinion went along rather reluctantly, but still it went along. Organized labor is not going to lose anything because of the defense program; it is creating prosperity, at least temporary prosperity, and labor always benefits from good times. Rather than forfeit the backing of public opinion, labor should now learn to back down when it is wrong. No one asks it to back down when it is right. But the public is not going to stand for paralysis of the defense program while "justice" is pursued through the strike method, if employers and workers will

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

The flax and linen 10-28-40 industries should be Oregon's greatest wealth as well as employment factors:

The Portland Journal of the 18th, this month, contained an article under the heading, "Flax Is Good for All Business," which will be reprinted in this column, followed by rather lengthy comment, to be taken up again and again. The article in the Journal reads:

"The wide-awake East Side Commercial club had as its guests last Wednesday men who are building the flax industry of Oregon in the Willamette valley. An important statement on that occasion was by former Governor Charles H. Martin, who said that in minerals and flax will be found much of Oregon's industrial future, and that we ought to go after defense orders for flax for the army as well as the navy."

"The principal address was by a man of unusual personality, a priest who in Mount Angel has done yeoman service to advance the flax and linen industry and to defend it against cutthroat competition. It is his address that is pertinent here: "By Father Alcain Heibel, O. S. B.: 'One of the finest results in the flax industry has been the forming of worth-while friendships with people and various groups. More interest has been shown in the development of the flax industry by a wider range of people than in any other industry. People in high government positions gave indispensable support; women's organizations and business organizations joined hands with farmer organizations in promoting the possibilities of flax. All services rendered were entirely unselfish and not for personal financial gain. The flax industry is bigger than any one person, more important than any one group or community. It is for the entire Willamette valley and for the state of Oregon.'"

"We need nothing so much as better understanding, kinder feeling and closer cooperation in that right business man, farmer and laborer. The Willamette valley farmer wants and needs flax. Recent years prove the financial dangers connected with the uncertainties of the hop market. It has been years since the fruit market offers any security to farmers. The government has told us that wheat is in super-abundance and is a surplus commodity. What, then, is the Willamette valley farmer to do? "God has blessed this region with natural fertility and beautiful climate, a place where God intended people to live and thrive. The Oregon farmer does not want a government dole, but opens his arms to do something constructive and live from the proceeds of his own work and planning."

"Flax fits into that picture. While it is not a get-rich-quick scheme, flax is good for the farmer. It is good for the farm, as flax will grow only on fertile and clean fields. Farmers have taken the lead in the development of flax and gathered themselves in the local chapters of the flax association that does so much for the education and the organizing progress of a farmer."

(Concluded tomorrow.)

Today's Garden

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

H.D.—C. A. Cole, horticulturist with the state department of agriculture, recently gave us the best treatment for glad thrrips the naphthalene flake method which we have previously suggested in this column. Cole says that if it is used in the correct proportion, it is as good as a magic wand. He suggests using the flakes at the rate of four level tablespoons for every 1000 corms, or one pound to 2000 corms. Small lots of bulbs may be placed in paper bags or cartons and the tops closed to retain the naphthalene fumes. The corms should be left in these bags not less than four weeks at a temperature of not less than 60 degrees.

C.P.—Undoubtedly you have overwatered your cactus. Very likely the new plants you have sent for from the California house will be suitable to indoor culture. Put a few pieces of charcoal in the bottom of the container you wish to use and mix a little unsifted lime with the potting soil. Soak the newly planted cactus in lukewarm water for an hour. Trim the roots slightly and plant them in a sand bed in the container. Water sparingly for about a week and then keep the plant on the dry side. Overwatering a cactus plant will cause it to decay.

R.T.—Care of window plants depends almost entirely upon the plants themselves. Anyone who wishes can grow some type of indoor plant, dry air is one of their worst enemies. Circulation of pure air is as necessary to their life as to human life. But draughts are disastrous to both. Your cyclamen should be watered twice a day during the blooming season if the drainage is as good as it should be. If you spray your plants frequently with water once a week and wipe off large leaves plants once in two weeks, you won't be bothered with quite so many insects.

We always think of geraniums as being easy to culture. They are by no means foolproof as house plants, as you have found out. Among those more especially cared for indoors are the cyclamen, anemones, primroses, and African violets.

not voluntarily arbitrate and meanwhile keep on pitching hay, public opinion will force government to step in—and then both sides will lose some of their precious "rights."



"Trial Without Jury"

By JAMES RONALD

(Chapter 10 Continued)
Stephen put his arms around the boy and held him tightly, feeling with pity the spasmodic shudders that ran through the slim body.
"It's all right, son, nothing's going to hurt you, Daddy's here."
Gradually, Peter allowed himself to be soothed. The tears stopped coursing down his wet cheeks and the shuddering ceased except for an occasional tremor.
"Oh, Dad," he whimpered brokenly, "it was awful. I thought Aunt Octavia was in the room."
"Hush, boy, hush! You'll wake the others. It was only a dream, Peter, only a dream."
"Bob D.—Dowell told me once that when people die—that they dispel the slender arms about his neck and nestled close to him. There are no such things as ghosts."
The boy was silent for a moment.
An icy grip tightened on Stephen's heart. What could he say to dispel the shadow of Octavia's death from Peter's mind? He could find no words that would do it.
Kicking off his slippers, Stephen pushed back the bed-clothes and slipped in beside the boy. Peter put his slender arms about his neck and nestled close to him.
"You won't leave me, Dad? You'll stay all night?"
"Yes, son, I'll stay."
"I'm glad."
"Good night, Peter."
"Good night, Dad."

At five in the morning Stephen gently extricated himself from his sleeping child's clinging arms and tiptoed downstairs. He opened the back door and went out to the garden. He had forgotten his slippers and the floor was cool and freshening on his bare feet. It was a lovely morning, the air was clear and blue, the sky was fresh. A bird chirped in the branches of a tree above his head and the leaves of a shrub rustled a shrill challenge to the sun.
Yesterday dawned like this, he thought; and yesterday was the most dreadful day of my life.
What will today bring?
His roses were coming on. Every day more bloom opened out to their full splendor. An hour later, when Edith came down, she found her husband staring at a rose as though it were a crystal ball. He was still in pajamas and his feet. Horrified, she made him go and dress.
Hannah was up and a fragrant odor of coffee began to pervade the house. The normal Sunday morning breakfast hour was half past nine, but Edith and her husband breakfasted alone at seven. Edith had decided to let the children sleep until they awakened of their own accord.
At eight a boy came clattering up the gravel path and deposited the Sunday papers on the doorstep. Stephen was looking out of the window and the boy gave him a curious stare. He had seen Stephen at least a hundred times in the past year but he gaped at him as though he were an oddity viewed for the first time.
Stephen went out to bring in the papers. He stooped to pick them up and the glaring headline which was spread across the top of the front page of the uppermost paper, struck him like a physical blow:

WOMAN MURDERED WHILE NIBBLE READS SHAKESPEARE

With shaking hands he lifted the paper. He leaned back against the portico, weak with horror, and read the sub-heads and the columns of type beneath them:
LAKELAWN—Tragedy arrested a quiet home here, Saturday, when Octavia Galloway, 34, wealthy spinster of Sutton Square, New York

Mary Stapleton of the Bronx, New York, is shown in federal court where she is expected to be the government's star witness in the million-dollar fraud case involving several men. Miss Stapleton is the former secretary of the Bankers' Industrial Research, Inc.

Government Ace

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—Corbals administration men are irritated, although holding their tongues, about "the twenty-two millions" whom Mr. Willkie proposes to keep alive by public pressure upon the legislature. No subject is discussed more where politicians gather. The perplexed new deal is in the position of a man plucking a thorn out of his back with his head turned behind to see if someone is coming.
The question the new dealers are asking is: What is Mr. Willkie going to do with "the twenty-two millions"? So far the only answers have come from the questioners. Some of them swear they will let loose a storm of managed indignation if the republican candidate attempts to use his group for public pressure upon the legislature. They foresee dire consequences in civilian strife. They are already loading their guns for it with charges that Mr. Willkie is trying to hamstring the government and promote his own election in 1944.
To a reporter sitting on the rail here, these apprehensions seem premature, if not imaginary. Unless the new deal is planning some international or domestic proposal which would arouse a hot discussion (say something on a par with the so-called coast reorganization proposal made after the last election); and unless Mr. Willkie did not mean what he said when he asked his Willkie clubs to drop his name, an active loyal opposition might be expected to precede military or other than strife. Certainly the cooperation accomplished between Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Willkie on uppermost international issues during the campaign seems to guarantee that the fears are unwarranted.
But suppose they are not. This original assumption upon which democracy is based is that the best decisions come from the clash of minds in debate. A real functioning democracy must have an alert opposition as well as majority leadership. The worst mistake the new deal made was the direct result of the lack of energetic opposition in congress in its early years. Its proposals were not then tested in the white heat of close discussion. Defects often were not corrected until these cropped up later in administration or in the courts.
This practical assumption that the government comes from consultation is the tap root of democracy. The morale fibres guaranteeing the rights of minorities spring from it.
"The twenty two millions" would not be performing their democratic duty if they did any less than this propose.
A more realistic possibility of strife can be found in the private doubts of some republican congressmen about Mr. Willkie's conciliatory attitude toward the administration foreign policy. Call them isolationists (as their enemies do) or American nationalists (as their friends do), they are plainly not inclined to go with Mr. Roosevelt, Mr. Willkie or anyone else very much closer to war. A future split between them and Mr. Willkie is not beyond the bounds of reasonable possibility, although no fissure has yet appeared in

News Behind Today's News

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Jeffersonian Democrats To Continue Actively
PORTLAND, Nov. 25.—(AP)—DeLmore Lessard, Oregon chairman of the Jeffersonian Democrats, an organization which worked for Wendell Willkie in the election, said today the group will continue its activity. He returned today from a meeting of Jeffersonian Democratic clubs in Sacramento, Calif.

The Safety Valve

NOT TAKEN FROM AIR
To the Editor: Since you have gone to so much trouble to discredit the statements I made in regard to dogs—we will have to continue this controversy another day. The statistics quoted were furnished by Dr. David E. Buckingham, White House veterinary expert on dogs. He is engaged in the business of furnishing hospital care for dogs.
No one ought to know better how much money is expended on dogs than those who are in the business—I am not, wish I was, there seems to be a lot of money in it. I am really sorry you didn't know where to go to get the information you sought. The library does not manufacture dog food or medicine, neither does it furnish hospital care for dogs—so does not know costs.
Now the sad part about all this dog business is this: All this money for food for dogs—but by a lot of poor people, especially in the south, who can not afford something better—all because the head news dealer, the champion of people's rights, has not gotten around to furnishing the information.
Perhaps in another ten years, when the house of Roosevelt has been firmly established and we have another visit by Franklin D. Jr., the crowned prince, these people can buy a real juicy beef-steak—we hope so anyway.
If you are not a gentleman as a member of the press ought to be you will apologize for your rude haughtiness. You may reprint the article here included if you wish—you publish a lot of things not so important.
Salem, Ore. K. H. BLAKE

Radio Programs

- 10:00—News of Salem.
- 10:15—The Homecoming.
- 10:30—The Homecoming.
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