

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sweeps Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, President

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Soon, the Offensive

Soon, we and not our enemies, will have the offensive.—President Roosevelt.

From the manner in which President Roosevelt constructed his Monday night radio report to the nation, one might judge that a considerable body of Americans has advocated a purely defensive role for the nation's armed forces; has suggested that our growing army be kept on this mainland, that our navy return from distant waters and devote its efforts to patrolling the two coast lines, that the air force be based a short distance inland, all to the end that no successful landings be made on our shores, that no enemy bombers loose explosive death upon our cities.

If it were true that such sentiment had widespread support among loyal Americans, certainly we here in one of the most exposed sections of North America, where the enemy is most likely to strike if he strikes this mainland at all, would be hearing it. We have not heard it.

Send help to MacArthur. Attack Japan. Those are the demands—voiced in the full knowledge that their fulfillment means less security from enemy attack than might otherwise be possible. If that is the sentiment here it must be the sentiment in less exposed areas.

Possibly there is contrary sentiment in Washington, DC. Possibly some small-minded politicians are so blind, or think the American people so blind, as not to realize that unless we take the offensive and defeat the enemy where he is, we will be defeated without striking a blow.

But more likely the president, while answering a very small minority holding such idiotic views or advancing them at the behest of the enemy, really was just approaching his subject, adept orator that he is, on the surest possible ground. Surely he knows that in the matter of need for offensive warfare, nearly all Americans agree with him.

There were words of good cheer in the president's report. Perhaps too many words of good cheer—reassurances calculated to revive the complacency of which Mr. Roosevelt himself has complained. There was also the warning that the war could be lost, that the American superiority in production upon which we have counted, will not exist until diligence brings it into existence. There was a plain statement that work stoppage would not be tolerated, nor the effort of any group to gain advantage for itself due to the nation's extremity. These were welcome words but we fear they were not pounded home with the desirable emphasis; that they were rather buried amidst the words of reassurance.

Still, it was a good report. Its frankness, its matter-of-fact account of losses and handicaps together with the promise that they would be overcome, certainly offered no comfort to the listening enemy.

"Soon, we . . . will have the offensive." That was the highlight. Just how soon, the president did not say. In our impatience, we are prone to forget that we have been in the war less than three months, that we knew from the start the enemy would have the advantage in his chosen combat areas. It is rather amazing, come to think about it, that MacArthur has been able to hold out so long, that already on no less than three occasions we have been able to take the offensive in naval combat, and that to date in no engagement involving principally on the one side American forces, have those forces suffered actual defeat!

Looking at that record, we have reason to hope that what the president foretells, actually will come to pass "soon."

Property Tax Calendar

It does not imply too lofty an estimate of newspaper editors' acumen, we trust, to observe that when several members of the craft are confused as to the facts of an issue, there probably are some other citizens in the same boat. More than one Willamette valley editor betrayed in comment this past week, a misconception of the new property tax payment schedule instituted by the 1941 legislature. Unless these editors are of that superlative degree of blindness "that will not see," a review of the facts may be in order even though, early in the week, The Statesman's news columns carried a clear exposition thereof.

Heretofore state, city and county property taxes have been levied on the basis of a calendar year budget. Taxes for the support of these governmental units for the year 1940, January through June, were payable in four quarterly installments March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15.

Under the new schedule taxes to support these same units are to be levied for a fiscal year extending from July 1, 1942 to June 30, 1943. They are payable November 15, February 15, May 15 and August 15.

School districts on the contrary with few exceptions have heretofore begun their fiscal year in July. But for such a year beginning June, 1940, the taxes were not collected until the March, June, September and December taxing dates in 1941. Due to this delay, many districts found it necessary to issue warrants for current expenses in the first half of the school year.

The new taxing calendar made it possible to correct this situation but in doing so, school districts found it necessary to levy an entire year's taxes in the odd first half-year of 1942 when other taxing units, in making the change-over, levied taxes for only a half year's expenses. And that is why the "half year" tax shown on statements just received, is more than half of the normal "full year" tax.

Yet it is not true that anyone is forced to pay two full years' taxes in 1942, or even 18 months' taxes. One may pay two full years' school taxes and 18 months' city and county taxes in March and November, 1942, in order to take full discount. But without penalty, taxes

for the change-over period may be, and are expected to be paid in these percentages of a full year's taxes:

	City	County	School
March 15, '42	25	25	50
June 15	25	25	50
November 15	25	25	25
February 15, '43	25	25	25
May 15	25	25	25
August 15	25	25	25

It should be understood that in no sense does the new schedule levy "more taxes" than the old one. In the case of the school district, it merely provides for their earlier collections, with a resultant saving to some districts in warrant interest.

The federal bureau of investigation is patted on the back, in one of the canned editorials appearing in several Oregon papers, for its refusal to employ Laura Ingalls for counterespionage work which she proposed. The editorial says "faith in the organization (FBI) begins to be restored" when this smart decision is revealed. No question about it being the correct decision, but if it was the smartest move the FBI ever made, federal law enforcement must be in a bad way. Certainly in this instance it is being damned by faint praise.

"Phelps Phelps enters army, pay is problem," says a headline in a New York paper. It seems the pay problem has to do with the fact that Phelps is a state senator and may possibly draw his salary as such as well as his army pay. Before reading on, we had thought the problem might be whether to list him as "Phelps Phelps" on the army payroll, or as "Phelps, Phelps."

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 23—The Chinese were not born yesterday. They have been burning up the Burma road the last two weeks with doubled traffic to sneak all their lease-lend goods off the wharves at Rangoon, and move these up behind Lashio, beyond reach of the oncoming Japs.

They did not have enough trucks to bring all the material up as far as Chungking in time, so they rallied every facility at the Burma end of the road and ran the goods up to caches in the mountains of their Yunnan province. The wharves are fairly well cleaned up now.

Loss of the Burma road will therefore not be immediately disastrous to the Chinese cause. It will not force Chiang Kai-Shek into a separate peace.

Even the long range effects are problematical. Most of the lease-lend goods going up the Burma road have been small arms, ammunition, tools, parts and such material as could be carried in trucks. Planes may still be flown in from India, via other routes.

Somehow the impression is getting around that Darwin is a naval base, "a little Singapore." If it is, it is one without facilities, supplies, docks of any consequence, warehouses, repair stations, oil storage and railroads and therefore the emptiest Singapore and the cheapest that was ever built. Ordinarily a good harbor, without facilities, is called an anchorage.

It is possible the United Nations have been trying to build up an air base there. Airplane facilities can be installed much more rapidly. Gas storage facilities and plane repair shops may have been set up there. But its only land connection with the populated section of Australia is a motor road back through the wilds to Brisbane.

It is bad enough for us to be losing really important positions in the Far East. This is no time to start losing imaginary ones.

Unmistakable signs are accumulating to indicate the Japs are preparing a spring attack on Stalin's back-door in Siberia.

Men and material seem headed for the Amur river front for what would be an obvious and simple drive to isolate Vladivostok. Pushing on from the Manchurian border down to the sea, the Japs could cut Stalin's communications with his Pacific stronghold. Vladivostok itself then might be attacked from the sea and pinched out.

No one ever knows what the Russians have anywhere. Their official grapevine reports that they have kept 500,000 troops on the line to match an equal number of Japanese. Authorities here can only hope this is true.

Food authorities here have counted up sugar stocks and conclude these are sufficient to furnish 99 pounds to everyone in this country this year. The average consumption for eight years from 1932 to 1940 was 103 pounds so the amount available is only 4 pounds less than normal. (They do not count last year because industrial buying and hoarding was evident then.)

But whether you will get your 99 pounds this year is a question. Much depends on your neighbor. While stocks are almost adequate, hoarding continues. Rationing is inevitable, solely because of demand and not because of inadequate supply.

Dispatch of an American representative to the remotest corner of the world, Afghanistan (between India, Iran and Siberia) has been announced without explanation. That lonely nation of 12,000,000 people which specializes in 120 degree heat in summer has become a center of axis intrigue, with Germans, Japs and Italians joining in. Their activity at Kabul has become so strong as to require attention by the United Nations.

Here again is disclosed the world-widening horizon of axis conquest. The mere fact that Hitler considers Afghanistan worth going after is proof enough of what India is facing, as well as Iran.

The Lady Perkins was upset by rumors that she had notified New York friends of impending retirement. Her friends here say the rumors did not come from her but possibly from someone outside her department who wants her job. The suggestion, however, came from an anonymous congressman.

The labor secretary once presented her resignation to the president but it was not accepted.



Uncle Sam Is On the Way "Where the Flying Fishes Play"

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Calling all our 2-24-42 congressmen for work on a proper, fair flax tariff to protect Oregon:

(Continuing from Sunday.)

Still copying from the 1933 series: "However, warm water retting, as we have it, cuts down the time (of scutching flax straw) from two or three weeks to about four days. This is a big advantage, a great economy in cost of equipment and operation."

"But there is no substitute, yet, for drying the retted straw in the sun. This is not saying there may not be. Sunshine is required, so far, for retaining the resiliency, and spinability, of the fiber—what men in the industry call the 'life.' Dried artificially, the fiber is harsh, unsuitable for manufacturing the finer fabrics."

"This series might be indefinitely extended, with items that should and will be of increasing interest in this flax and linen center. Belfast has an institute (an education institution) devoted to the study of the flax and linen industries, with a large student body. Salem will one day have such a school."

"As compared with other industries, workers with flax fiber receive a good average of wages. In the higher departments, they get large salaries. The Barbour, for generations engaged in the industry, make up one of the wealthiest families in the world. They control our Miles linen mill in Salem, making thread and twine, and fish nets from the twine."

"The higher reaches of the industry, fashioning laces and wall coverings, etc., run into values that are fabulous. Again, why not double the population of Salem in five years or less?"

So ends the 1933 series. Since that time there has been a good deal of progress in the flax industry throughout the Salem district and the Willamette valley generally, and in the world of invention; though we are so far doing very little spinning of linens and are still looking to the future on linen mesh and 100 and more specialties.

But we have been making and are making some progress, with prospects for much more; in new scutching plants, a good deal of progress, with prospects for more.

The original flax pulling machine, invented or part of it invented by a Canadian preacher, is called the Vessot machine. Three patents were taken out in Canada and the United States on this machine, and its improvements. But they have all run out in point of time, and the way is clear for other improvements; and they have been and are being made—so that a much better machine will no doubt develop, at a fourth to a tenth of the price of the original one.

Jonas J. Byberg & Co. of Silverton have been making a flax pulling machine that is held by its users to be better than the original Vessot machine. The original Jonas J. Byberg is an inventive genius, since youth a resident of Silverton, and will no doubt be heard from further in the field of invention.

P. A. Bernard of St. Paul, Oregon, is a genius of similar mold, and he has made a flax pulling machine, too, which has points of excellence, and he may add more. Also W. R. Hurst of Oregon City, Oregon.

As said in the hereinbefore quoted series of 1933, many improvements have been made in

scutching machines for separating the fiber from the retted flax. The state flax plant, which has been using some of the older style scutching machines, that were miles ahead of the best in existence a few years ago, is having four scutching machines rebuilt into the latest improved Van Hauwaert flax scutching machines, which will put the state flax plant way ahead of where it has been heretofore, in turning out a fine quality of flax yarn, and doing it expeditiously.

Van Hauwaert was a Belgian, but the Germans, who do not want any one in a conquered country who has brains above an oyster to live there, made it too hot for him to stay in Belgium. He managed to get to eastern Canada, and is now in Peru, and is no doubt making more im-

provements in flax harvesting and treating machines.

A bunch of enthusiasts at Eugene, Oregon, are working on a scheme for the artificial drying of flax fiber, different from drying in the sunshine, which has been going on since before Noah landed on Ararat. The Eugeneites may "have something there." They surely have, if they are on the right track in that field.

New flax scutching plants are springing up all over western Oregon and Washington, or are being proposed. Included among the latest on the prospective list is Monroe, Washington.

This brings us back to where this series started, as indicated by the headlines.

Our flax industry must have tariff protection.

(Concluded tomorrow.)

'Hutch' of the A.F.

By PETER WIDDER

Chapter 14, Continued

Every day they were together for long hours, and the days passed with a terrible rapidity. They took long walks over the meadows and through the woods, and kissed and talked of love. Wendy wondered if, after all, she was really going to be forced to ask him to marry her. She had quite made up her mind to do it if necessary. But it wasn't. On the third day after her arrival, he said simply, "Will you marry me, Wendy?" and she was about to answer in the affirmative when he added, "After the war?"

"But why after the war, darling? We may be a hundred and ten years old by then. Let's profit it now while we're young. Let's live and get every little ounce of pleasure from life while we can."

"No, Wendy." He held her at arm's length while they talked, and looked deep into her brown eyes. He was intensely serious. "I couldn't now, not while I'm in the air. It's—well, I don't want to exaggerate, or give you the idea that I'm courageous—but it is dangerous work that I have ahead of me, and I don't think it's exactly fair to leave you a widow. I want to be sure that I have a chance of living first. I want to know that I can be with you and make you happy. Don't you see, my sweet?"

"She didn't see, and tried to argue, but in a very short time she knew that this was useless. At all events she was intelligent enough to hide the fact that she was hurt. She would keep their friendship, their love on a happy basis. They would continue to be gay companions for the moment. Perhaps later she would be able to change his point of view.

The doctor declared that the wound in David's shoulder was healed, his health excellent and dismissed him from the hospital on the same day that Wendy was to return to her ambulance section at Watford. They arranged to travel together and Wendy said that, if he would come with her to Watford, she was sure that Miss Gill would let her take him to St. Albans in an ambulance. He laughingly replied that he didn't care much about riding in ambulances, but accepted. He had told her where the Hornets were stationed, knowing that the secret was safe with her. "Besides," she said, when suggesting that she take him to the squadron, "I can see Phil."

They were to catch an early afternoon train, and David said that he would be delighted to lunch at The Downs when Lady Harrowsdale extended the invitation at Wendy's suggestion. Wendy wanted her father to know David and, above all, to like him. This would make the way smoother for her David when the time finally came for him to ask the older man's consent.

Wendy did not know that Lord Harrowsdale was already aware of the love that existed between David and herself; she was surprised at her father's distinctly hostile and aloof attitude during the meal. He was courteous to the guests, but he could be nothing else according to his stiff code of an English gentleman's duty in his own home, but he did not warm up or show the least sign of friendliness. This was particularly unnatural, Wendy thought, because she was well aware of her father's love for soldiers and his unbounded admiration for heroes. And David was both.

Could it be because Lieutenant Hutchinson was an American? She did not think this possible. On the contrary, this made him a double hero, as he was a volunteer, fighting for a cause that was not even his own, risking his life for England. It is easy, she thought, to defend yourself—anyone would do it—but to fight the other man's battle is heroic, and Wendy found herself growing more and more angry with her father as the luncheon progressed.

Lady Harrowsdale's tact was perfect, and she was successful in keeping up a brisk conversation with David. She did not share her husband's idea that only Englishmen were fit husbands for English women. She believed in love first and, in spite of her capable, business-like ways, she was a romantic.

Radio Programs

These schedules are supplied by the respective stations. Any variations noted by listeners are due to changes made by the stations without notice to this newspaper. All radio stations may be cut from the air at any time in the interests of national defense.

10:00—Five Star Fun
10:15—War Time Women.
10:35—Air-Fl.
10:45—Defense Today.
11:00—Martin and Roy.
11:30—Manny Strand Orch.
11:35—News.

KEK-NBC—TUESDAY—1130 Ka.
6:00—Sunrise Serenade.
6:15—National Farm & Home.
6:45—Western Agriculture.
7:00—Clark Dennis.
7:15—Breakfast Club.
8:00—Old Refrains.
8:20—Stringtine.
8:30—Prescott Presents.
8:45—Keep Fit Club.
9:00—Breakfast Club.
9:15—Jimmy Blair.
9:30—Helen Hiatt.
9:45—New Show a Day
10:00—Bankhead Talking
10:15—Breakfast at Sardi's.
10:45—Charmingly We Live
11:15—Geographic Travelogue
11:30—Stars of Today
11:45—Keep Fit Club With Patty Jean
12:00—Orpheus and Orpheus.
12:15—Amanda of Honeymoon Hill.
12:30—John's Other Wife.
12:45—Just Plain Bill.
1:00—Your Livestock Reporter.
1:15—News Headlines and Highlights
1:30—Market Report.
1:35—Rose City Calendar.
1:55—News.
2:00—Quiet Hour.
2:30—A House in the Country.
2:45—Stars of Today
3:00—Informational Phase.
3:15—News.
3:30—Streamline Journal.
3:45—Count Your Blessings.
4:15—Mr. Keen, Tracer.
4:30—Hotel Talt Orchestra
4:45—Adventure Stories.
5:15—Flying Patrol.
5:30—News of the World.
5:45—Tom Mix Straight Shooter.
6:00—Secret City.
6:15—Rollie Truitt Time.
6:25—Symphony.
7:30—Red Ryder.
8:00—Meet Your Navy.
8:20—Informational Phase.
9:00—Easy Aces.
9:15—Savoy Ballroom Orchestra.
9:30—News.
9:45—Hotel Belvedere Orchestra.
10:00—News.
10:15—Cuba Rhumba Revue.
10:30—Broadway Band Wagon.
10:45—Paladium Ballroom.
11:00—The Moving World.
11:15—Organ.
11:30—War News Roundup.

EWG—TUESDAY—825 Kc.
6:00—News.
6:05—Quack of Dawn.
6:30—Early Bards.
7:15—News Headlines and Highlights
7:30—Musi-B-Gram.
7:45—Sam Hayes.
8:00—Stars of Today.
8:15—Symphony Swing.
8:45—David Harum.
9:00—Women's World.
9:30—News.
9:35—Deep River Boys.
9:45—Musical Bouquet.
10:00—Women's Place.
10:15—Bess Johnson.
10:30—Bambert's Children.
10:45—Dr. Katz.
11:00—Light of the World.
11:15—The Mystery Man.
11:30—Valiant Lady.
11:45—Arnold Grimm's Daughter.
12:00—Against the Storm.
12:15—The Perkins Family.
12:30—Pepper Young's Family.
12:45—Vic and Sada.
1:00—Packard's America.
1:15—Stella Dallas.
1:30—Lorraine Jones.
1:45—Young Widdie Brown.
2:00—When a Girl Marries.
2:15—Prettia Face. Life.
2:30—We, the Victrola.
2:45—Story of Mary Martin.
3:00—Right to Happiness.
3:15—The Journey.

KALE-MBS—TUESDAY—1130 Ka.
6:30—Memory Timekeeper.
7:00—News.
7:15—Memory Timekeeper.
8:00—Breakfast Club.
8:30—News.
8:45—As the Twig Is Bent.
9:00—John B. Hughes.
9:15—Woman's Side of the News.
10:00—News.
10:15—Eileen Holden.
10:30—Front Page Farrell.
10:45—Sweet & Hot.
11:00—Buyer's Parade.
11:15—College of the Sixes.
11:30—Concert Gems.
11:45—Luncheon Concert.
12:30—News.
12:45—The Airliners.
1:00—News.
1:05—Musical Goes Calling.
1:30—Johnson Family.
1:45—Boake Carter.
1:55—Orphan Annie.
2:00—Froonmaker Press Conference.
2:05—David Cheskin Gang.
2:15—Take it Easy.
2:20—News.
2:30—Bookworm.
2:40—Johnny Richard Orchestra.
2:50—Orphan Annie.
3:00—Fulton Lewis, Jr.
4:15—News.
4:30—Let Me Forget.
4:45—Music Depreciation.
5:00—Jimmy Allen.
5:15—Orphan Annie.
5:30—Captain Midnight.
5:45—Jack Armstrong.
6:00—Victims in the Wind.
6:15—Phil Stevens.
6:30—Spotlight Bands.
6:45—Victims in the Wind.
7:00—News & Views.
7:15—Art Kassel Orchestra.
7:30—Johnnie from London.
7:45—Jerry Sears Presents.
8:00—What's My Name.
8:30—News.
8:35—The Shadow.
8:45—News.
8:55—Orphan Annie.
9:00—Fulton Lewis, Jr.
9:45—Moon Magic.
10:00—Jack Teagarden Orchestra.
10:20—News.
10:25—Brad Hunt Orchestra.
11:00—Al Donahue Orchestra.
11:30—Jack Teagarden Orchestra.

KOAC—TUESDAY—825 Kc.
6:00—News of the Day.
6:15—News.
6:30—The Homemaker's Hour.
6:45—School of the Air.
7:00—The Master.
7:15—News.
7:30—Farms Hour.
7:45—Favorite Classics.
8:15—Variety Hour.
8:30—Fun American Melody.
8:45—Hummer's Place.
9:00—School of Music.
9:15—Seeing the Americas.
9:30—Wall-to-Wall. Echoes.
9:45—Great Songs.
10:00—News.
10:05—Chamber Music.
10:20—Stories for Boys and Girls
10:30—The Campus.
10:45—Fun in Defense America.
8:45—Evening Vesper Service.
9:00—Dinner Concert.
9:15—News.
9:30—Farms Hour.
9:45—Young Widdie Brown.
9:55—News of Oregon.
10:15—World in Review.
10:30—The Victorians.
9:30—Music of Czechoslovakia.
9:35—OSC Cadet Band.
9:45—Johnnie from London.

Today's Garden

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

Porch baskets hanging around since autumn and looking rather droopy now that we are having occasional sunny days can be made beautiful for the next few months if filled with licorice ferns.

These can be planted so that they come out at all sides of the basket and grow in similar form to their native haunts. The interior soil of the basket should be chiefly leafmold, if that is obtainable.

Such baskets will look well until early May when the porch basket plants are actually planted out. If the baskets are not hanging where they obtain natural moisture, give them a quart of water twice a week. The baskets, if they are wire, do best when lined with heavy moss.

L. B. reports an axalea she has been given seems to be "sick looking." The leaves turn sort of yellow and drop off.

Probably she has been keeping it too warm. Give it some air. Unless she is expecting a heavy frost, set it near an open window—not in a window where a strong wind will blow, however. Give it plenty of water. Sprinkle the leaves occasionally. Keep some water near it. Axaleas will not thrive in too dry and hot an atmosphere.

Your Federal Income Tax

DEDUCTION FOR TAX ON MOTOR GAS

If an automobile is used for both business and pleasure, those maintenance and operating expenses which constitute allowable deductions for federal income tax purposes should be allocated to the two uses on the basis of the time the car is used for each. For example, if the total expense of operation and maintenance, plus depreciation, for the taxable year amounted to \$800, and the car was used three-fourths of the time for business and the balance of the time for pleasure, the allowable deduction, for federal income tax purposes, would be \$600.

In general, taxes are deductible only by the person upon whom they are imposed and by whom they are paid. If the state law imposing a tax on gasoline by its terms imposes the tax on

the consumer and not on the dealer, the consumer may deduct as tax, for federal income tax purposes, the amount of the gasoline tax paid by him; but the taxpayer must have kept records of the payment of such taxes in order that the deduction may be substantiated as is required by the regulations. The federal gasoline tax is not deductible by the consumer. The taxpayer may ascertain whether a state gasoline tax is deductible by the consumer or by the dealer by addressing an inquiry to the collector of internal revenue for his district.

In any case where the gasoline purchased is used for business purposes, the tax may be regarded as a part of the cost of the gasoline and deducted as a business expense; but in such case the gasoline tax cannot be deducted separately as a tax under the item of taxes.