

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Suavies Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Satisfactory Service

Politics wears in normal times many of the aspects of a three-ring circus. It naturally follows that at campaign time showmanship is, or is generally considered, an asset, no matter how little relation it bears to the day-by-day administration of public affairs.

As the lists close for the primary election it is emphatically obvious that these are not normal times. For an unprecedented number of offices which are within the gift of Salem and Marion county voters there is no contest. Only one candidate has appeared. Some of those assured of nomination by default will have opposition in the general election next fall; unopposed candidates for city offices and for the judiciary will not.

For this unusual situation the times are largely responsible. Against the easily recognized and inexorable trend of the times, this column in company with many conscientious citizens, voiced futile protest. In general, the dearth of candidates is regrettable.

And yet, now that the lists have closed, certain contrary observations are appropriate. Particularly in the cases of city and county offices, where government is close to the people, the absence of contests though attributable in part to individuals' reluctance to make the race, undeniably denotes also rather general approval of the character and ability, and in the case of an incumbent, the record in office of the single candidate who has offered his services. Granted that no one was anxious to run—it is still true that if the lone candidate had not been generally acceptable, some group of citizens would have "drafted" an acceptable though possibly reluctant one to make the race.

This appraisal of the situation is applicable, we are confident, to the candidates for the several uncontested city offices. Most remarkable is the position of I. M. Doughton, already assured of the mayoralty, for the reason that he is not an incumbent though he has served the city in other capacities for many years and thus is no dark horse. Likewise Paul Hauser, city treasurer, and Dave O'Hara, unopposed for his fifth ward place on the city council, are entitled to consider that they already have the voters' endorsement. Congratulations to all three are in order.

Among officers whose tenure is at the sufferance of Marion county voters, it is equally apparent that Circuit Judge Max Page has served to the satisfaction of the great majority, that County Judge Grant Murphy has served to the satisfaction of republicans, and that Joe Felton has performed acceptably the duties of Salem district justice of the peace. And as in the case of Mayor-elect Doughton, there is another noteworthy circumstance that applies to these three: each was appointed rather than elected to serve his present term.

The case of Congressman James W. Mott who is enabled to forego his biennial primary campaign but will face opposition in November is, we conceive, slightly different. His unbroken series of victories since 1932 serves to discourage opposition in the absence of widespread dissatisfaction with his service. It is known that prior to last December 7 there was criticism of his votes in opposition to certain of the administration's preparedness measures. The objections then raised, we may fairly assume, are now generally viewed as no longer pertinent, while his record in support of coastal and naval defenses in the Pacific stands to his credit. Failure of any republican in the district to oppose him thus is evidence, not of a total lack of dissatisfaction, but of the absence of objection so strong as to inspire an assault upon his strong political bastion.

Offices which are statewide in their scope present a slightly different situation but felicitations differing only slightly in degree are due Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction, and Justices Percy R. Kelly and Harry H. Belt of the state supreme court.

Though congratulations already are in order for those candidates nominated or actually elected by default—barring unlikely write-in campaigns—success—it would not be fair to assume that those public servants who are opposed for renomination actually lack equally general approval; their opponents may be self-starters. But this discussion was opened with some remarks about showmanship and its relation to politics and public service. And one observes that whereas the neophyte Circuit Judge Max Page has no opponent, the veteran Circuit Judge L. H. McMahan has two. And one just can't help wondering . . . about politics in these unusual times . . . and showmanship . . . and cause and effect.

Dr. Kildare

Lew Ayres was never the best actor in Hollywood, nor even the most glamorous—though any fellow who could lead successively Ginger Rogers and Lola Lane to the altar must have known most of the answers. One always did get from a Lew Ayres picture an impression of sincerity and integrity. He was the fellow in "All Quiet on the Western Front" who was sickened and disillusioned by war; the faithful personification of Erich Marie Remarque's autobiographical character. By the way, we wonder what Erich is thinking now?

But we know what Lew Ayres is thinking, for he is on his way to a camp in Oregon for conscientious objectors where he will cut wood and pay \$36 a month for the privilege. From his statement for the press it is evident that whatever may be his failure to see the realities of the times, he is aware that this step may mean the ruin of his personal career. And of course, even about that other matter he is right, in a way. If everyone should refuse to fight there would be no wars. What he fails to see is that his solution has been rejected for the time being and that nothing can be done about it until this mess is settled—the right way. And we doubt whether he sees the difference between this war and its predecessors—but what's the use? It's too big a question to discuss when we started out to discuss Lew Ayres.

The point is that Lew Ayres obviously is

sincere. He is imperiling his career—and not for the sake of saving his skin, but for conscience' sake. It just goes to prove that even in Hollywood all is not tinsel and sham. Ayres played the role of war-hater on the screen; now he is playing it in real life. And just possibly he is one of the most downright heroic acts performed by a member of the film colony this season.

Still, it's a pity that Lew can't at this point translate his other major role into real life. Surely he wouldn't object to a wartime career dedicating his knowledge of the healing arts to the alleviation of suffering. And the nation could use a diagnostician of Dr. Kildare's talents to great advantage in these times.

The tire salesman who is called into the army has one consolation; his job ought to be waiting for him when he gets out. At any rate, no one will be filling it in the meantime.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, March 31.—The Nazi blitz-General List arrived in the north quietly a few days back, just about the time the soothsayers of the Swedish press were concluding Hitler would not invade them this season.

List has never been known as a sightseer or ski fancier, but is the tank general who ravaged France, Yugoslavia and Greece with speed unprecedented before in warfare. He is the Nazi lightning-caster although he did not cast very much in Russia.

Sweden, of course, does not merit such high class military attention. A Nazi sweep in from Norway, coupled with landings from Denmark and Germany at Malmö and Trollenberg, should duplicate the Norwegian job with the use of no more than ten or 12 German divisions.

Sweden, while promising now a hard fight, is not known to have the military wherewithal for formidable resistance against a force of 150,000 or more.

Thus is the familiar pattern of conquest being laid. First diplomatic pressure, then suppression of newspapers, then visits from German officials, now from a blitz general.

All the while propaganda has been circulated to make the Swedes fear a Russian victory and a conquest from that quarter, if Germany loses. Finally now there has come the lull of security, which means the time is ripe for lightning.

Few here were impressed with the threat to Sweden when discussions were warm in the press a week or so ago. There is not much for Hitler to gain there. He is getting the iron ore and some other materials. It is true this limits him to his pre-war share, but that seems to be enough.

Some see military advantage for him in the strengthening of his Finnish and Norwegian positions, if he takes Sweden, but this would not be worth the effort involved. Sweden is just another easy victory lying around loose at a time when Nazi victories are getting fewer and harder.

The thaw is now on at the Ukrainian front in south Russia. Within a week or two, the roads will be good for tanks. In fact, Hitler could have started before this if he intended to keep his old military pace.

If the weather has not delayed him, what has? Is he holding back the leash on the great forces he has amassed at the southern Russian front in order to time that drive with something else?

Just about this time every year, Der Fuehrer disorients what he likes to call a surprise. In 1940 it was Norway; last year, Yugoslavia and Greece. It is inconceivable that he has been consulting the muses all winter without indulging his penchant for surprises.

The south Russian drive might bear more world weight if coupled with occupation of Sweden, but particularly if timed with a Jap attack on Vladivostok.

The Japs have not reinforced their south Pacific armies lately. No more steaming transports have been discerned moving toward Java or New Guinea. In fact, the New Guinea drive has bogged down in a flood in the jungles halfway to Port Moresby from Lae and Salamaua (on the north shore of the peninsula).

The Japs there have barely enough forces to take Port Moresby (which they no doubt will do eventually) but not enough to go ahead from there into Australia. It is doubtful also whether they have enough in Java, for further conquests.

Consequently a question is arising as to when or whether the Japs intend to move at Darwin. From bases at Timor and elsewhere they can continue bombing so General MacArthur will be unable to maintain formidable airfields along the north shore for attacks on them. They may figure this is enough and not even attempt landing on Australian soil.

Suspicious Jap troop movements have been noted north of Nanking, indicating reinforcement of the northern front. It is just possible these troops are destined for Manchukuo and a spring action against Vladivostok.

Thaws should start in about two weeks on the Moscow central front, but the muddy period generally lasts much longer there than in the south. It may be six to eight weeks yet before the fighting terrain is good in that area.

But no one here can see the possibility that Hitler's annual spring sensation will break there. He needs oil. It lies a few miles ahead of him on the Ukrainian front. Unless he gets it this summer, he will have a hard time going through another winter.

Importance of oil to the Nazis has been stressed so often, and Hitler has so frequently found a way out, that the subject has lost its vital significance to many people. He seized supplies in Holland, Belgium and France, and then acquired the Rumanian fields, to skip the oily grave which so many experts had dug for him. But there are no more supplies to be confiscated, and the Rumanian fields cannot support indefinitely the extended kind of war he has been forced to in Russia.

Therefore, the Near East must be his main objective, or he must find a magician who can make oil out of lost hair.



"You Take Him Awhile"

Radio Programs

KSLM-WEDNESDAY-1300 Kc.

6:30—Rise 'N' Shine.

7:30—News Brief.

8:30—Rise 'N' Shine.

9:30—News.

10:30—Sunrise Salute.

11:30—Musical Horoscope.

12:30—Sunrise Salute.

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These schedules are supplied by the respective stations. Any variations noted by listeners are due to changes made by the stations with the air at any time in the interests of this newspaper.

All radio stations may be cut from national defense.

1:30—American School of the Air.

2:30—News.

3:30—William Winter.

4:30—Name the Tune.

5:30—Golden Gate Quartet.

6:30—Scattergood Bates.

7:30—Wilson Ames Orchestra.

8:30—Hedda Hopper's Hollywood.

9:30—Frank Parker.

10:30—News.

11:30—Second Mr. Jurton.

12:30—Young Dr. Malone.

1:30—Newspaper of the Air.

2:30—State Traffic.

3:30—Eyes of the World.

4:30—Bob Garred, News.

5:30—Elmer Davis, News.

6:30—Best Johnson.

7:30—Bachelor's Children.

8:30—Welcome, Neighbor.

9:30—House Next Door.

10:30—News for Busy Women.

11:30—Rhythmaires.

12:30—Dr. Kase.

1:30—Light of the World.

2:30—Arnold Grimm's Daughter.

3:30—The Guiding Light.

4:30—Hymns of All Churches.

5:30—Against the Storm.

6:30—Ma Perkins.

7:30—Pepper Young's Family.

8:30—Vic and Sade.

9:30—Backstage Wife.

10:30—Stella Dallas.

11:30—Loretta Jones.

12:30—Young Wilder Brown.

1:30—When a Girl Marries.

2:30—Florida Faces Life.

3:30—We, the Abbotts.

4:30—Story of Mary Martin.

5:30—Weekly Spectator.

6:30—Stars of Today.

7:30—Booklet Hour.

8:30—It Happened in the Service.

9:30—Bill Henry.

10:30—Mr. District Attorney.

11:30—Kay Kyser's College.

12:30—Uncle Walter's Doghouse.

1:30—Paul Martin.

2:30—Your Mayor Speaks.

3:30—Fred Waring.

4:30—News.

5:30—News Flash.

6:30—Time to Relax.

7:30—Moonlight Sonata.

8:30—Organ.

9:30—Florentine Gardens Orchestra.

10:30—War News.

11:30—6:30 a. m. Music.

12:30—News.

1:30—The Homemakers Hour.

2:30—School of the Air.

3:30—Artist and Orchestra.

4:30—News.

5:30—Farm Hour.

6:30—Foreign Classics.

7:30—Variety Time.

8:30—Organ Recital.

9:30—Music for Morale.

10:30—Living Literature.