

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Age of Conquerors

Chronological data indicating that at least 290 years of warfare marked the 400-year period immediately preceding the Christian era, were offered in this column some days ago. "Give us a few days," we asked in promising to probe the early centuries of the Christian era for like statistics.

Well, we have them—but now we know why historians and students of the problem of war have shied away from the task. The results were, as we warned at the time, obviously inaccurate for the period of Greek and Roman ascendancy, since only the bigger wars in which those more civilized peoples engaged, drew their historians' attention. But for the "dark ages" which followed, the record is hopelessly confused.

Even so our "minimum" figure is impressive enough. In the first 700 years AD, there were wars of sufficient importance to be recorded, accounting for at least 484 years of strife. But actually, we doubt if the world in those 700 years ever had a wholly peaceful year.

The period opened with the "Pax Romana"—nevertheless the Romans under Tiberius, Germanicus, Claudius, Agricola, Trajan and Hadrian were almost constantly fighting somewhere to keep the "pax." Take a look at conditions in the British Isles. Periodically there were insurrections by the Britons against their Roman rulers; and if occasionally they were docile, take note that the Scots never were. And as long as the Romans had it in mind to tame them but never did—over a 250-year period—it isn't exactly right to call that "peace." Moreover, when Roman control of Britain proper relaxed, the Scots would invade; and after that the Angles and Saxons and later the Northmen. Those scraggy folk likewise were busy on the continent.

The Goths started marching about 249 AD and were still troublesome more than 300 years later; any moments of peace in the interim were purely accidental. The Franks, Heruli and such minor tribes at the Suevi and Alani likewise were busy in the same period; the Huns started around 375 to harass the decaying empire for a couple of centuries and the Vandals, who were even more of a headache for so-called civilization, were right behind them. Nor can we afford to overlook the Lombards. The Persians flared up after several centuries of something like peace, to keep history popping early in the seventh century until the Saracens were ready to take over for more than 300 years, running far beyond the period we have been considering. So what room is there to insert a decade, much less a generation of peace?

But the striking thing about those 700 years is the succession of names—conquerors' names. Picking up after the handful of Romans we have already mentioned, you encounter Sapor and Chosroes, the Persians; Aurelian, Carus, Maximus, Narses and Belisarius, late Roman leaders; and the barbarians Alaric, Genseric, Attila, Odoscar, Clovis, Theodorik, Totila. It doesn't take long to name over the list but the years of warfare for which they are responsible add up to a lot of killing and plundering. Genseric started young and made trouble for half a century; Chosroes rivaled him by engaging in strife throughout most of 39 years. Attila possibly has a greater reputation for slaughter but he was through after 20 years. That was the age of conquerors. But if in attacking the problem of war you toy with the idea of killing off in youth all prospective conquerors you encounter insurmountable problems. Conquerors likewise are troublesome today—but how can you recognize them before they become too powerful to destroy?

Chances are it will be a lot simpler, though it may not appear so when you first consider it, to educate the dull-witted chumps who become the followers and cannon-fodder of conquerors.

Queen Wilhelmina and Mrs. FDR, touring the White House grounds, encountered some children having a party and, since they were "playing house," dressed as nearly like adults as possible. They were the well-mannered children of high government officials so the interview went off well. But when the children left the royal presence, only one little girl walked backward which as you may know, is the proper thing to do. The First Lady's subsequent investigation disclosed however that this little girl really wasn't more polite than the rest. She walked that way for approximately the same reason that you or you might walk backward in leaving any gathering or group of people.

A Detroit war industry worker was ordered off the job by a CIO shop steward because—due to a lifelong resolution to buy nothing on credit—he had refused to participate in a payroll deduction war bond purchase program, though he had bought \$1050 worth of bonds for cash. As we understand it, the tangle is being untangled and the worker is back on the job. But the resentment may have been inspired by a guilty realization that his lifetime habit was a rebuke, not only to many fellow-workers but to an improvident national government. If we hadn't spent billions with no visible return in the last decade, financing the war would be no such struggle as it is now becoming.

Some authorities, disagreeing with the view that Japanese Foreign Minister Togo's resignation was an event preparatory to invasion of Siberia, suggest that Togo quit voluntarily, though in a huff, because a new ministry being created to rule occupied territory was going to take over some of his powers and personnel. We don't understand the Japanese; so much we are quick to confess. And we'll confess further that the idea of a voluntary resignation had not occurred to us. Such an event is rare over here. But from what we do know of the Nips, it doesn't seem likely that voluntary resignations are among the points of difference between them and us.

"Freezing" the Workers

Reference is not to the fuel shortage—serious as it is, and timely in view of the fuel need sign-up which is not attracting the attention it deserves—but to the regulations which will estop workers in certain industries, notably here lumber production, from moving freely from job to job. It is a far cry from the Civil War period, when not merely workers but actually soldiers walked away from their assigned posts and enlisted all over again for reasons pecuniary.

Here again as in the case of the president's farm price control proposals—but in a much more personal way in so far as the workers involved are concerned—this is a matter of temporary regimentation. Again the desirability of the objective is plain; again the necessity is regrettable.

Fortunately for the sake of freedom in principle, the compulsion is indirect. To date there is actually no visible means of forcing men to stay on their jobs; the device is prohibition of their acceptance on other jobs. Prospective employers are, in turn, to be persuaded by indirect means not to accept them; loss of contracts or priorities, and the like. The obvious effectiveness of such means causes still another shiver of apprehension about the security of our freedoms.

But there just is nothing one may effectively do for their preservation now—other than to insist that the incursions must be obviously necessary. Beyond that, we'll just have to take it on faith that the surrender of freedoms is only temporary.

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 9.—The smart Marshal Rommel got his nose caught in his own tank treads at El Himeimat. He was outwitted by a new adaptation of an old trick he played on us.

The drive he started at the southern tip of that 31-mile British line was the opening maneuver of a full scale offensive. He marshaled one-third of his entire force against what he thought was the weakest point of the British line; at least it was farthest from the shore railroad, and without any direct road back to the Alexandria base.

With a skill he pushed his tanks through eight miles of British mine fields that lay out in front of their defensive positions, like a protective explosive apron. Mines, of course, are not visible to the eye, and the British could not plant them as thick as carrots, a foot apart, but they had the field securely sprinkled.

The trick by which Rommel got through, was to spray all suspected spots with artillery and gunfire to explode the mines, and his tanks thereupon coasted safely over the pock-marked territory.

This brought him up against the allied defense line, intact and ready for battle. He found the line was not a series of trenches, but the usual defensive positions in depth, with machine gun pill boxes and artillery positions—much artillery, more than he had seen before.

Rommel had brought along his magnificent 88 mm. guns, the big mobile cannon, which served him so effectively against our tanks in Auchinloch's near-disaster at Rezegh, before the fall of Tobruk.

Our General Grants and the British tanks were supposed to come out to do battle with his tanks in another open field conflict of the mechanized mastodons, whereupon Rommel would again unleash his 88s and make scrap metal of them.

The British need only one lesson. They kept their tanks safe inside their lines this time. Instead, they leveled their artillery at the German tanks, and called up dive bombers, as well as fist fighting pursuit planes (hard to hit) carrying small bombs. These went after the Nazi tanks with great fury, in excellent clear weather. (A sand storm hindered operations only the first day.)

Rommel persisted in his position for several days, but he never got into the British lines. Wendell Willkie (who put more past the Egyptian censors than the correspondents) says 100 of Rommel's 276 first-line tanks were crushed and ruined.

General Alexander then switched his bombers to the Nazi lines of gasoline supplies, which rambled far back through the desert. After these had been pounded for several days, and much German gasoline destroyed, Rommel was forced to retire, because of a shortage of fuel. Berlin explained away his misadventure as "a reconnaissance in force."

There can be no doubt from the size of the force, and the way Rommel used it, this was a big size drive to break the British lines. It was the opening of a major offensive that did not fully materialize, because the first move failed.

And it failed, not only because we had more bombing power than his limited plane force could cope with (Hitler drew in practically everything in the air for the Russian drive), but because General Alexander fought his superior airpower with skill matching Rommel's generalship.

This should keep Mr. Rommel quiet for an indefinite period. He will probably need more tanks and gasoline before starting anything very important.

On the other hand, his losses may not have been sufficient to encourage the British to launch an offensive, especially as they now occupy a short compact battle position, better than the desert in front of them offers Rommel, and with excellent short roads back to their base.

At any rate, you can score the latest fight on the Libyan front as a major defeat of the nazis.

While you have your pencil out, score an error for me. Down in this column published September 3, the terse, strong, fact-packed communique on the battle of the Solomons was attributed to the pen of General MacArthur.

This was an unintended and therefore a greater tribute to Captain Leland P. Lovette, new director of naval public relations, who really wrote it. The style was so good, I thought it was MacArthur's. Naval communiques are going to be better now.



The Wind Is Whistling Among the (S) Pines

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. Radio stations may be out from the air at any time in the interests of national defense.

- KELM—THURSDAY—1300 Kc.
 - 7:45—Rise 'N' Shine.
 - 7:50—News in Brief.
 - 7:55—Rise 'N' Shine.
 - 8:00—News.
 - 8:05—Hour Gospel Program.
 - 8:10—Lud Glinkin's Orchestra.
 - 8:15—News Brevities.
 - 8:20—Concert Orchestra.
 - 8:25—Pastor's Call.
 - 8:30—Kate Mendelsohn.
 - 8:35—Popular Music.
 - 8:40—Blue Basers.
 - 8:45—To the Ladies.
 - 8:50—World in Brief.
 - 8:55—Herb Jeffrey.
 - 9:00—Women in the News.
 - 9:05—Sunley Fox.
 - 9:10—Some Like It Sweet.
 - 9:15—Hits of Yesterday.
 - 9:20—To Be Announced.
 - 9:25—Organalities.
 - 9:30—News.
 - 9:35—Hilary Serenade.
 - 9:40—Williams Valley Serenade.
 - 9:45—Interlude.
 - 9:50—Lam and Ahner.
 - 9:55—Ray Noble's Orchestra.
 - 10:00—Melody Melodies.
 - 10:05—Lullaby.
 - 10:10—Isle of Paradise.
 - 10:15—US Army.
 - 10:20—Arms for Victory.
 - 10:25—Tune Tabloid.
 - 10:30—Old Opera House.
 - 10:35—Concert Orchestra.
 - 10:40—News.
 - 10:45—Teatime Tunes.
 - 10:50—Employment Bulletin Board.
 - 10:55—Gall Rini, Accordion.
 - 11:00—Le's Remembrance.
 - 11:05—Novelty Male Quartette.
 - 11:10—Tonight's Headlines.
 - 11:15—War Commentary.
 - 11:20—Arms for Victory Orchestra.
 - 11:25—Lee Ann Sisters.
 - 11:30—Most Honored Music.
 - 11:35—Fats Waller.
 - 11:40—Let's Dance.
 - 11:45—Jerry Sears Orchestra.
 - 11:50—Harry Beener's Novelty Orch.
 - 11:55—Last Minute News.
- KEK—THURSDAY—1190 Kc.
 - 7:00—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 7:30—News.
 - 7:55—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 8:00—News.
 - 8:25—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 8:30—News.
 - 8:55—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 9:00—News.
 - 9:25—Memory Timekeeper.
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 - 11:00—News.
 - 11:25—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 11:30—News.
 - 11:55—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 12:00—News.
- KEW—THURSDAY—1190 Kc.
 - 7:00—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 7:30—News.
 - 7:55—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 8:00—News.
 - 8:25—Memory Timekeeper.
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 - 11:00—News.
 - 11:25—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 11:30—News.
 - 11:55—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 12:00—News.
- KGAC—THURSDAY—1250 Kc.
 - 7:00—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 7:30—News.
 - 7:55—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 8:00—News.
 - 8:25—Memory Timekeeper.
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 - 8:55—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 9:00—News.
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 - 11:25—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 11:30—News.
 - 11:55—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 12:00—News.
- KOLN—THURSDAY—680 Kc.
 - 7:00—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 7:30—News.
 - 7:55—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 8:00—News.
 - 8:25—Memory Timekeeper.
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 - 11:55—Memory Timekeeper.
 - 12:00—News.

Today's Garden

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

B.M.M. asks if there should be any difference between autumn and spring fertilization of the lawn.

Answer: In autumn one should use a fertilizer which has less nitrogen in it than the one contains for spring use. You do not want to start a heavy rank growth for winter. It is better to get a good growth of roots and then have the grass in condition to start out early in the spring. Of course there are many winters here in which the grass does not stop its growth at all. But there is no guarantee that we will have such a winter and it is, as a rule, best to prepare the grass for a winter hit is not so good. Should the grass continue to grow throughout the winter earlier feeding in the spring may be resorted to. A fertilizer heavier in phosphoric acid should be used for fall feeding.

F. G. asks if she can plant a pepper plant indoors and if its fruit will ripen.

Answer: I suppose it will if she is able to supply sufficient light and proper heat. Peppers are frequently grown in hot houses. I have never heard of a window garden of peppers, but it might be done.

S.H.H. writes that she planted an evergreen early last spring and that it failed to make much growth. In fact, she said, it really looked as if it might die. A short time ago she dug down around it and found that the ball of dirt around it was still as intact and hard as ever.

Answer: In planting balled materials it is very important that the soil be soaked up very thoroughly so that it will break and mix with the soil around it. In this case I would break up the ball without disturbing the roots. Then water very well. It must be kept moist after the soil has been loosened. But no shrub will make a growth if its roots are in a hard mass of soil.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

First to introduce navigation of the air into the military service was Captain James Allen. (Continuing from yesterday.) In the course of the matter contained in this column yesterday these words were used: "From one of them (Captain Allen's balloons) General Custer discovered that Yorktown was being evacuated; from them the terrible battles of Fair Oaks, Oak Grove and Mechanicsville were witnessed by commanding officers and dispatches dropped down from time to time to be sent to headquarters; at another time Captain Allen, by his observations DETERRER GENERAL SEDGWICK from crossing the Rappahannock to attack what he supposed an inferior force, and when the Federal troops were before Fredericksburg General Cyrus B. Comstock, chief of engineers, ascended to a height of 2000 feet, where he remained for more than three hours, mapping the heights and sketching the enemy's position." At that point a note was inserted: "(Salem people note the matter about Sedgwick later along.)"

That was for the purpose of having the attention of local people called especially to General John Sedgwick, for whom the Salem Grand Army post was named, and under whom Gideon Stolz, prominent old timer of the capital city, fought through the Civil war; Mr. Stolz having been up to the time of his death here a few years ago one of the outstanding Grand Army men: he having for a generation been always enthusiastic in every forward movement of the city adorning the Oregon map as the place where the laws are made and from which they are administered.

John Sedgwick was born at Cornwall, Conn., September 13, 1813; graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point with the class of 1837, 24th in a class of 50, including Generals Hooker, Bragg, Benham, Early, etc. He served in the Seminole war, was in several engagements against the Indians; on frontier duty; on the Canadian border; in garrison and on recruiting duty; in the Mexican war—at the siege of Vera Cruz, battles of Cerro Gordo, Molino del Rey, Chapultepec, in the assault on the City of Mexico, etc., etc.

He became a major and lieutenant-colonel in the Mexican war period, and brigadier general of volunteers early in the Civil war. Was at the siege of Yorktown, the battle of Fair Oaks, deciding the success of the day at the latter.

Was at the battles of Savage Station, Glendale, Antietam. Was made a major general of volunteers July, 1862. Came into leadership of the 6th Corps at the battle of Salem Heights. Opposed Lee in his Pennsylvania campaign of 1863.

General Sedgwick led his corps at the battle of Gettysburg; was in the battle of Mine Run, in the Richmond campaign of 1864; in the campaign of the Wilderness; was killed in the battle of Spottsylvania Court House.

At the United States Military Academy a monument stands for Sedgwick, made from cannon captured from the Confederates by the Sixth corps—his own corps.

There is some interest in Oregon, or should be, on account of the interest of Governor Sprague, the "war governor of Rhode Island, who encouraged Captain Allen in air navigation during the Civil war. There had been a Governor William Sprague of Rhode Island, about the fifteenth governor of the state, grandson of William and a great-grandson of another William Sprague, originating in Devonshire, England, and a descendant of Roger Williams.

The Governor William Sprague who was the war governor (Civil war) and who encouraged Captain Allen belonged to the Sprague family to which Governor Charles A. Sprague of Oregon is related.

That Rhode Island (Civil war) governor did much to help President Lincoln get good three year enlistments of the first men to join the Union forces from "Little Rhody," as well as furnishing them good backing, encouraging them to stay in, giving the smallest state in the Union territorially a fine reputation as patriotic American citizens.

The Governor William Sprague of that period (Civil war) was the 24th governor of Rhode Island. That Sprague family (of Rhode Island and Connecticut) for a long time made up the largest manufacturing concern making cloth in the United States, or in the world. They made 800,000 yards of cloth a week, and 1,400,000 yards of printed calicoes.

That family also manufactured iron, and made locomotives, and owned and operated railroads. A little more on the Sprague family to follow.

(Continuing tomorrow.)

Random Harvest

By JAMES HILTON

Chapter 13, Continued

She clapped her hands ecstatically. "Oh, I should love to go there!"

"But it's miles away in the suburbs—" he was beginning, but suddenly then I could see the mere caprice of the idea seize hold of him; to drive out to Banford to see Berty Lowe at the local Hippodrome was in the equity of fantasy for such an evening. He handed me the paper. "They call it a riot of rip-roaring rib-ticking—doesn't that sound awful? Wish you'd ring 'em up and book a box for four at the second house."

"Salute the flag," echoed Madame, with hands clasped. "Oh, I know I am going to love it if it is about soldiers. The Englishman I knew in Budapest was a soldier. It was during the war, but he wasn't interned at first, because the Hungarians always liked the English, but when he began to send me flowers every day with little notes hidden in them—written in English, of course—the police arrested him for espionage, but when they translated the notes—oh, mon dieu, you should have seen their faces—and his—and mine—because, you see, he was crazy in love with me—crazily—not a bit like an Englishman! Oh, how I wish I had made them give me back those notes. . . Casimir, of course, was made with jealousy."

Casimir, no longer capable of being mad with jealousy, looked up as a dog will on hearing his name-mentioned, then shook his head with a bemused belch over his unfinished crepes Suzettes. I went out to telephone.

An hour later we were sitting on four very uncomfortable cane chairs as the curtain rose on Salute the Flag. It had been a mistake, I could see, to have engaged a box; the orchestra seats would have been much more comfortable, and further away from certain push hangings which, on being merely touched, shook out clouds of dubious-looking dust. I gathered from the way we were escorted to our seats, and also from the fact that the other boxes were empty, that our arrival had created a little stir; it would be odd, I thought, but perhaps not absolutely catastrophic, if some member of the audience were to recognize Rainer. However, no one did, despite the fact that some of the actors played as us outrageously—even, by the end of the show, making jokes about the gentleman in the box who's fast asleep. It was true, Casimir was fast asleep. Madame had awakened him several times, but

(To be continued)

The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

EXECUTIVE SUPREMACY

To the Editor: There is no doubt that one of the greatest needs in our country today is effective inflation control; but we do not want it at the cost of American constitutional liberty. The doctrine of executive power as stated by President Roosevelt in his inflation message to congress if put into effect would destroy the basic principle of distribution of power as worked out in our constitution. It is the same doctrine of executive supremacy that prevails in the Axis countries and in each such country the original assertion of the power was on behalf of the economic welfare of the people. Democracy might be in a more healthful state in our country if millions of letters were directed to the president vigorously protesting his assertion of authority to set aside a law of congress. Robert Moulton Gateke, Willamette University.