

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Shows Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Farewell to a Tough Year

Safe, soft and easy is life on the American home front. Little sacrifice is required or asked of civilians and that little, too many seek to avoid, or endure with bad grace.

Unavoidably, to our fighting men overseas this same picture has been conveyed, and there is concern as to how on their return we will dare face them, or answer for our shortcomings.

With no thought of undermining this "pep talk" campaign but rather of abetting it—since a pat on the back is of equal worth to a scolding—may we in taking leave of the year 1943 observe that it has not been after all, even for stay-at-home Americans, a bed of roses.

They have dodged no bombs, they have not gone hungry, some have prospered financially. Yet in numerous unobtrusive ways it has been a year of extreme wear and tear.

Right there is one of the items. No matter what war-winning effort the civilian puts forth, he faces the embarrassing knowledge that it scarcely matches the contribution of his relative who is fighting or preparing to fight.

Mention of relatives introduces another item, for each civilian has a relative, in most cases a close one, in the combat forces. Here the comparison actually tips the balance in the opposite direction; for the combatant knows where he is, how near to danger; the civilian relative does not, and his worry is augmented by uncertainty.

To get around to more concrete matters, there are civilians—tens of thousands of them—who have injured their health by overwork. This despite the comparatively short working hours of American war industry.

After all, there is no exception based on distance to the truth that this is a "war of civilians." Things are upset; families are divided; workers have had to move to strange surroundings and scramble for bare shelter; business men have worries about merchandise, labor shortage, difficulty in performing those services to the public which they feel are their responsibility.

Nineteen forty-three was a tough year. Judged fairly by all visible signs, a tougher one is ahead; even so, farewell with no lingering regrets to the one that's past.

Wood Surplus

Portland, which faced winter-before-last with prospect of chills for lack of fuel, now has a wood surplus, with calls from fuel dealers to "come and get it."

The federal experts in the late summer of 1942 urged convict camps to cut cordwood. The state forester's office, to whom the matter was referred, found it would be an expensive and uncertain project for the state to set convicts at cutting wood for Portland, but did find great quantities of slabwood and mill ends going to waste in lumbermills of the valley.

By all means, use of such power, and in fact all youth leadership, must be kept away from the state, particularly the federal government.

Now is the best time in the world to judge what state discipline will do, with fresh evidence of what Hitler and Mussolini did in brutalizing their little nazis and fascists. We will have none of that here.

Old Age Assistance

The increase in cost of living makes the raise in the average allotment for old age assistance to slightly over \$30 timely. In these days of prodigal spending that sum will seem pitifully small. But it must be remembered that grants are made on a basis of need, and many elderly persons require only small grants from the welfare commission to supplement their other incomes.

There has been a lot of bunk and a lot of politics in the agitation for old-age pensions, with various fantastic schemes proposed from ham-and-eggs to the original Townsend \$200-a-month-spend-it-all plan.

It is noted, however, that while old age pensions were advocated as a substitute for the poorhouse, the trend is again toward care of the needy aged in "institutions." What we mean is that private homes for the aged are springing up, where elderly persons are cared for, usually at the maximum of their assistance grant.

Speaking of enforcing gas rationing—well, we haven't come to this: the ex-mayor of Maldstone, England, was fined \$5 for misusing gasoline because he drove his car to his son's wedding after the taxi failed to show up in time.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31—The incontestable answer to all this juvenile delinquency in the news is one word—discipline.

This is not old-fogeyism, but ultra-modern psychiatric doctrine. The instinctive tendencies of children must be curbed by discipline until they have reached the age where self-restraint enables them to conform to social customs and to take advantage of social opportunities.

Too many parents and children themselves erroneously believe that modernism permits free expression of their instincts. This leads to the current savage eyesores of our vaunted civilization in which prostitution has been flaunted conspicuously in cities by grade school girls, thefts and crime before the age of reason has been reached, and murder of parents by children who find them troublesome.

The fault is not with modern principles, but that they are not enforced. Toleration of such popular misconceptions is the crime of our age.

I have seen, in Times Square, New York, girls barely past puberty with soldiers and sailors, not in small groups, but in droves, while police look on shaking their heads in apparent helplessness. I could be right that up in 15 minutes.

Everywhere that soldiers and sailors go, there are MP's. If the military police were ordered to detain and question every service man accompanying a girl of doubtful age, and terms in the guardhouse were provided, the practice would soon lose its current trend.

The experts on this subject of juvenile delinquency, even including Mrs. Roosevelt, all think in social grooves apparently, proposing only that more and more money be spent for boys' clubs, playgrounds, social workers, psychiatrists in police courts, etc. After they get all those things done, they will still need the answer, discipline.

The home is still the cradle of our culture. Discipline should be re-established there on modern psychiatric lines. If the home is broken up by parental delinquency (which also is widespread), or by the war, or for whatever cause, discipline will have to be exerted somewhere else.

We could start by restoring it to the schools. Nowadays, teachers are afraid to touch the poor little dears.

I know one school teacher in whose four junior high school classes, only 50 per cent are up in their work today, the remaining half being delinquent. She cannot make them work. Her hands are tied by modern misconceptions of science. Against just punishment in any effective form.

Table of radio programs for KSJM-SATURDAY-1230 Ks, listing times and program titles.

Table of radio programs for KEK-SN-SATURDAY-1100 Ks, listing times and program titles.

Table of radio programs for KGW-NBC-SATURDAY-820 Ks, listing times and program titles.

Table of radio programs for KALE-NBC-SATURDAY-1330 Ks, listing times and program titles.

Table of radio programs for KOIN-CBS-SATURDAY-970 Ks, listing times and program titles.

Table of radio programs for KOAC-SATURDAY-820 Ks, listing times and program titles.

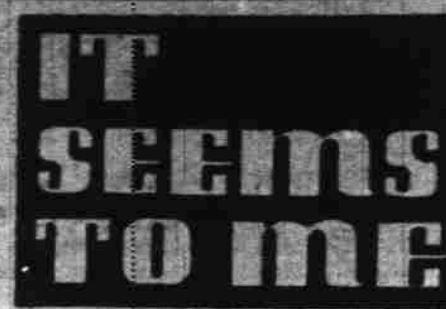
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(Continued from Page 1)

In the Pacific "combined operations" will be pushed along the island line toward the Philippines, with the Japanese navy avoiding an all-out battle with the American fleet.

POLITICS: Roosevelt will be the democratic nominee. Conservative Democrats will force a substitute for Wallace for vice president.

BUSINESS: Overall production will continue at very high levels though with cutbacks and contract cancellations in many lines.

RATIONING: Relaxation rather than tightening of ration requirements, as government reduces its demand and as politics dictates easing strain to appease voters.

EMPLOYMENT: Some unemployment will develop through the year but it will be local and temporary. Peak of acute labor shortage is passed.

TRANSPORTATION: Very difficult in the west, as load of Pacific war grows. Less gasoline, fewer seats in stages and trains for civilians.

LABOR: Fewer strikes or threats of strikes in major industries, but probably a greater number of strikes.

PEACE: Problems of peace will loom larger as the war climax is reached. Increasing concern over details of peace settlement.

VITAL STATISTICS: Marriage and birth rates down in 1944—too many men overseas. Death rate for civilians slightly higher.

That's what I see in the fortune-teller's deck of cards for 1944. It might be well however

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

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Russian guns and Anglo-American bombs rang out the old year for Nazi Germany with ever widening portents that before end of the new year the last citadel of Hitlerism in Europe will have fallen.

There was almost an admission of that in Hitler's own bleak New Year's greeting to the German people. He sounded a whimpering, hopeless note to replace the blustering bombast that has been missing for months from his now rare public utterances.

Just how imminent that Russian-allied pledged annihilation of nazism in Europe may be yet remains in doubt. But in Russia, as Hitler's gloom-laden message was broadcast from Berlin, it moved an ominous step nearer work at low ebb.

With Korosten to the north also gobbled up in the Russian rush, Kazatin engulfed in the south and Berdichev, between Zhitomir and Kazatin, all but surrounded, the scope of the massive red offensive is expanding by leaps and bounds.

There is no parallel in this or any other war for such a width of front attack.

The breadth of front, coupled with the protection afforded by the marsh lands to the north, tends to insure the Russian advance against flanking attack or diversion from its obvious prime strategic objective, the center stretch of the Tarnopol-Odessa railroad.

Traced out on the maps, the width of the Russian drive aimed at the Tarnopol-Odessa escape route for the enemy indicates it is designed to rip open a gap 100 miles or more wide in that line.

GLLENDALE, Calif., Dec. 31-(AP) Silver-haired Hobart Bosworth, 76-year-old dean of the Hollywood movie colony, succumbed in a hospital Friday to pneumonia.

Once a Broadway idol, Bosworth had to forsake the stage and come west to Arizona, where he overcame tuberculosis. This victory won, he cast his lot with the struggling movie business and became one of its very best character actors.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 31-(AP) Fire of undetermined origin Thursday destroyed the Phillips-Wakefield Manufacturing company's plant which manufactured furniture for Portland war housing units.

The owners, Norman A. Phillips, Portland, and Marvin Wakefield, jr., Vancouver, Wash., estimated loss at \$31,000.

Advertisement for Stevens & Son featuring a large image of a hand holding a tool and text: 'We feel like climbing up on the nearest housetop and ringing out "Happy New Year," so loudly that each and every one of you will be able to hear it!'