

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Aw"
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War Loan Backfire

Whatever was the intent of the timing of the release of the story of the atrocities visited by the Japs on American and Filipino prisoners of war, it definitely injured the sale of bonds in the fourth war loan, with the opening of which it coincided, according to Ted R. Gamble, assistant secretary of the treasury in charge of war bond sales. He estimates it cost the campaign half a billion dollars.

The Statesman does not believe that the release of the stories by the army and navy was prompted by a desire to stimulate sales of war bonds, but rather that the story was pried out by its own seepage. The military saw they couldn't bottle it up any longer. So the press bureau let it go without regard to its effect on the war loan campaign and perhaps without realizing the campaign was being launched. Washington bureaus operate in such tight compartments that one is apt to pay little attention to another.

There is however no real reason to doubt the purpose of the war and navy departments in holding back the news of the ill treatment visited on American nationals, which was to avoid provocation to the Japs to visit similar abuse on the Americans and Filipinos remaining in their hands. Their judgment was wrong, this paper believes, but not the intent.

It all comes back to this: that news is news, and while timing is important, obvious attempts at timing flatten its effect. To be news it must have the quality of freshness, which tardy news releases never have. Maybe the experience with the atrocity story will acquaint the military mind with the importance of promptness in news releases, not to influence the public mind, but to inform it.

Reconverting Industry

James Patton, president of the farmers union, attacks the Baruch report covering re-conversion of industry to peacetime pursuits. Yet this report generally is hailed as a blueprint to peace. Surely it deserves the most thoughtful consideration of the American people, for the problems it attempts to solve are perhaps the most critical which we shall face on the domestic front. Already they are appearing. The machine-tool industry, first to be expanded, is now running out of orders.

Take the Troutdale aluminum plant built by the government and operated by Alcoa. What will Uncle Sam do with it when the war is over? Close it? Sell it? Lease it? Operate it? There are all these alternatives.

In general public opinion will favor having the government get out of business. Yet there are millions of the people's money in these plants. This money should not be lost or abandoned; nor should the plants be allowed to drift into monopolies. These new type plants are able to produce goods at lower cost than old plants, so the owners of the latter fear competition of these new establishments.

Instead of trying to lay down a general rule either to dump the lot or enter into socialistic operation will it not be wiser to consider these plants operation by operation to salvage as much of the government investment as possible, to utilize the plants for consumers good as much as possible, and lastly to deal justly with private enterprise which has provided the great proportion of goods for war?

Here indeed is a task calling for practical business statesmanship.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, March 2—It is very probable that Mr. Roosevelt will revise his government immediately for victory and the fourth term campaign.



Now, as never before, he needs brains in the top places. With the chaotic condition of the world, with our ability to survive questioned on every front—financial, diplomatic, economic, military—the best politics and simplest sense demands the best manpower in government as well as in the army, factories, and field.

You cannot win without power on your own side. Yet Mr. Roosevelt's own senate leader has now publicly proclaimed what everyone else knew, namely that the cabinet and presidential advisers fall far short of representing the best intelligence and experience of the country.

In the beginning, to satisfy this deficiency, Mr. Roosevelt brought in the Byrnes, Baruch, Vinson, Jones set-up as a super cabinet. As Senator Barkley noted, this has not been enough. Any ordinary man in Mr. Roosevelt's spot would go out and draft the best men of the nation to handle subjects they know best. A belated move along that line is imminent.

Anonymous news has been appearing in the papers suggesting a few cabinet changes are under consideration. The question is whether they will go far and deep enough. Edward R. Stettinius, the state under-secretary, is receiving some mention as possible vice presidential nominee instead of the left-leaning Wallace. This talk originated with no more interior authority than democratic National Chairman Hannagan.

Mr. Stettinius has an ex-big business background in Morgan business not unlike that of Mr. Willkie. Certainly Stettinius is being groomed to succeed Mr. Hull, when and if.

Foreign Economic Administrator Crowley also has mounted the toboggan and a successor is needed for him.

A sounding-out rumor has been published that Commerce Secretary Jesse Jones might go to the treasury with Joseph P. Kennedy, ex-ambassador to Britain, replacing him. The rumor is probably off the mark.

Mr. Kennedy's finance-business brain is regarded as the best in the country and the place for him is treasury. When big business leaders get in trouble, they call on him to straighten them out for an extraordinary fee which they must pay because no one else can do the job.

In the current international financial dilemma (Keynes-White international currency stabilization and even domestic taxes) Mr. Roosevelt could get him for a \$10,000 a year cabinet salary, whereas a private corporation seeking his services would have to pay 10 to 20 times as much. Why not?

The only objection is political. Mr. Kennedy is erroneously designated by certain contrary political elements as an appeaser—and conversely also as an anglophile. So also with Herbert Hoover and the international food distribution problem. Mr. Roosevelt hired the popular ex-Governor Lehman, who knows nothing of the subject, and discarded Mr. Hoover whose life was spent acquiring superior knowledge and experience in that particular line. Why? Because Hoover is politically unpopular.

Ex-Governor Cox, an ardent League of Nations democrat, is likewise idling outside government service. There are hundreds of them throughout the country, men of great ability, good democrats, good republicans experienced men. The above named are offered merely as examples. This is world war, and more than that, it is world revolution within war. The people of the country really care far less whether a man is a good political appointment than whether he can help win for us. The best politics would be no politics.

Where Is Jap Fleet?

To the frequent question of two years ago, "Where is the American fleet?" there comes now the antiphony, "Where is the Jap fleet?" It wasn't in the Gilbert Islands; it wasn't in the Marshalls; it wasn't in the Carolines; it wasn't in the Marianas? Where IS the Jap fleet?

The question is not academic; for there is a Jap battle fleet. It never has been fully engaged. While the Japs have lost heavy ships and aircraft carriers their principal losses have been in destroyers and light cruisers.

The answer seems clear that the Jap fleet is being held for defense of the home islands. The fleet may elect to make that defense in home waters; or it may cast the die in defense of the Philippines with the realization that once we regain strong bases in those islands then we can bomb their cities mercilessly, particularly if we gain a foothold on the China coast. It would seem therefore that the great naval battle of the war would occur somewhere in Philippine waters, though the Japs may hold back for defense of their real home land.

There is a Jap fleet; and the American fleet growing daily in might is trailing it down for the last engagement.

The headline said "CCC life extended through June 30." Wasn't the civilian conservation corps abolished a couple of years ago? Yes, it was; and this headline refers to the commodity credit corporation. It suggests that there's hope for America after all. Beyond a certain point it will be necessary to abolish one bureau so another can borrow its initials. But let's see—how many possible combinations are there in 26 letters of the alphabet?

At long last another Mae West picture. The manpower situation must be more critical than we thought.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
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Racing against impending spring thaws, red armies on the Russian Baltic flank are on the verge of a victory that will do more than rout the last Nazi invaders from Russian soil in the northwest. They are within sight of wresting little Estonia from Hitler's grip as the first German conquered country in continental Europe to be freed of Nazi domination.

With both the Narva and Pskov gateways to Estonia and the Nazi base at Vitebsk virtually encircled by the Russians, only a miracle could prevent early collapse of the German front over a 400-mile span. The fall of any of them, particularly Pskov, must open the way for Russian incursions in both Estonia and Latvia that could convert Estonia into trap for Nazi forces cut off there.

It is questionable whether a German retreat from Estonia and northern and northeastern Latvia is not already in progress.

The Narova river, crossed by the Russians, was a strong defensive front. It is fringed with marshes on both sides. Yet the Russians drove through on a 22-mile-wide front to outflank Narva and all but cut its westward communications.

The implication is that only Nazi rear guards, posted to delay the Russian advance across the Narova isthmus, manned that front.

If that is true, it must mean that Nazi evacuation of all Estonia has been ordered in anticipation of a Russian breakthrough at Pskov which could trap German forces north of the Pskov-Valk-Riga railroad and highway or the Pskov-Riga trunk line below it.

There have been significant reports from Moscow that German traffic on those routes has been west bound for several days. There are even reports of Nazi execution of German generals who failed to staff off the Russian triple-pronged drive on Pskov. Red forces already have driven the Nazis from all Russia in the north except for a narrow wedge-shaped segment between the Latvia-Estonia borders and the Pskov-Polotsk railway with its apex at Pskov.



Why Go Any Further?

Today's Radio Programs

KSLM-FRIDAY-1330 Ks.
7:00-Cherry City News.
7:30-Marion County Farm and Home Program.
7:45-Rise 'n' Shine.
7:55-Morning Moods.
8:00-Cherry City News.
8:05-Prison Parade.
8:10-Rhythm Five.
8:20-Tango Time.
8:30-Factory Call.
8:45-It's the Truth.
9:00-Cote Club Chit.
9:15-Popular Music.
9:30-Cherry City News.
9:45-Song and A Dance.
10:00-Cherry City News.
10:15-Sentimental Songs.
10:30-News Flash.
11:30-Hits of Yesteryear.
12:00-Organizations.
12:30-Hillbilly Serenade.
12:35-Midway Matinee.
1:00-Lum 'n' Abner.
1:15-Orchestra.
1:30-Polka Dot.
1:45-Spotlight on Rhythm.
2:00-KSLM Concert Hour.
2:05-Charles Magnante.
2:10-Music.
2:15-Spirit of Vikings.
2:45-Music.
2:55-Wanda Merrick's Vocal Group.
3:15-Let's Reminiscence.
3:30-Gypsy Orchestra.
3:45-News Headlines.
4:15-War News Commentary.
4:20-Evening Serenade.
4:30-News.
4:45-Lucas.
4:50-Red Cross.
5:00-Keystone.
5:15-Clayton Farris in Review.
5:20-Orchestra.
5:30-Music.
5:45-Treasury Star Parade.
6:00-News.
6:15-Castles in the Air.
6:20-Woman's World.
6:30-Serenade in Swingtime.
6:35-News.
6:45-Sign Off.

KSJL-FRIDAY-1330 Ks.
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KOV-NBC-FRIDAY-1330 Ks.
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Alcohol Plant Said Assured For Springfield

Requests of lumbermen in the Eugene area for authority to erect a \$2,500,000 wood, sugar-ethyl alcohol plant at Springfield will be granted and the plant will be the first in the United States to utilize a patent held by the alien property custodian for a process now in general use in Germany, Lynn F. Cronmiller predicted to members of the Salem Lions club at their luncheon meeting Friday.

Those requests, he declared, indicate the faith which lumber industry has in the chemists' plans for utilization of what has been the "waste" from mills. More than 30 per cent of the saw log remains as sawdust, slab and trimmings, when the lumber has been cut, Cronmiller, long with the state forestry department, said.

The plant, planned for Springfield, would produce an estimated 3,400,000 gallons of ethyl alcohol per year, Cronmiller explained. Among its products would be lignin, which properly treated with ammonium, is an ideal fertilizer or which may be used as a base for blue or in the manufacture of methyl alcohol.

Physical changes in wood products over the past few years were described by the forester, who traced the development of plywood from the glued ply known in the days of King Tut to that of today strengthened by its bonding agent. Seeking a system by which wood could be seasoned rapidly, scientists discovered that by forcing components of simple resin into the fiber they not only drove out the water and made the wood rot-resistant but also strengthened it into a steel-like substance, which can be bonded satisfactorily with steel for a variety of uses. This product alone may revolutionize not only actual construction but also manufacture of plumbing fixtures in the postwar world, he said.

4 Cities Win Traffic Contest

Klamath Falls, Pendleton, Ontario and Warrenton finished first in their respective population groups in the 1943 Oregon cities traffic safety contest, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, Jr., announced Thursday. The contest is sponsored by the safety division of the state department.

The first division, in which Klamath Falls was first, includes cities with a population of 10,000 or over. Pendleton was first in the second division, with a population of from 6000 to 10,000 while Ontario was first in the third division including cities from 2000 to 5000. Warrenton topped in the fourth division, with a population of from 1000 to 2000.

The winners will receive a large highway plaque which will be erected along side of highway entrances of each city, together with a framed certificate of award to be displayed in city offices. Second place winners in the four divisions were Bend, Baker, Burns and Vernonia. Third places went to Eugene, Corvallis, Cottage Grove and Rainier. Standings are based on the percentage of improvement in the accident experience for the contest year, compared to each city's previous three year average.

Phone Company Backs Red Cross

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company is contributing \$130,000 to the 1944 Red Cross war fund, according to an announcement by N. R. Powley, president, just received by H. V. Collins, district manager here. "Our contribution exceeds by more than 50 per cent the \$85,000 we gave last year," President Powley said. "In contributing \$130,000 this year, it has been our earnest endeavor to subscribe as liberally as possible to assist in meeting the added needs of the Red Cross as expressed by its increased budget for 1944."

The company's 1944 Red Cross war fund contribution has been apportioned, based on the relationship of the county quotas to the total quota, to the counties which it serves in Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, and Idaho. On this basis Marion county's allocation was \$525, and a check for this amount was turned over to the local chapter campaign chairman Tuesday by Collins.

Adair Staff Sets High Bond Record

CAMP ADAIR, Ore., March 2—As the war department phase of the fourth war loan drive speeds into its final days, Adair civilian employees have placed this post on the ninth service command's honor roll of installations that have reached or bettered the "ninety and ten" goal. The figures now stand at 92.87 per cent of all employees participating, with an overall average payroll deduction of 10.46 per cent and to quote Maj. Earl F. Armstrong, post war bond officer, "we are not stopping here."

"Camp Adair civilian employees are to be commended for the marvelous way in which they have responded to the war bond program," said Major Armstrong, "and Camp Adair is now right up among the leaders in the ninth service command."

Farm Labor Plan Details Due Soon

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—Early completion of organization details connect with the farm labor program in this state is expected with the return of Extension service leaders from Denver, where they conferred with federal and state officials on procedure under the new congressional act just passed. Major responsibility and authority within each state was given the Extension service for the farm labor program, as was done last year. Discretion is again given each state as to just how the details of the job are to be handled, according to Wm. A. Schoenfeld, director of Extension, and Ralph Beck, state supervisor of farm labor.

Cannery Union Hears Labor Talk

Marjorie Church Brewster spoke on organized labor and its future at Wednesday night's meeting of the Salem local of Cannery and Process Workers union. Other secretary of the Eugene local, and Mrs. Leona Zilkoski, Eugene, former AFL organizer for the union.

The meeting was devoted principally to providing information for employees of the Blue Lake cannery, where an election to determine whether or not the union is to be the bargaining agent will be held today and Saturday.

Co-eds Dominate Offices at OSC

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—This institution, long a haven for men, is now "ruled" by nearly complete co-ed student government. Crowning feminine invasion came when Don Hall, student body president from Hoquiam, Wash., relinquished his office to Marguerite Johnson, St. Helens, first vice-president. Hall will be graduated in engineering at the end of this term. The posts of second vice-president, secretary and yell leader are all filled by co-eds, plus the editor of the Beaver, college yearbook, and manager of the Barometer, student newspaper. Co-ed registration alone now totals 1485.

Small AST Unit Assured OSC

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—A minimum assignment of from 225 to 250 AST students here next term is in prospect with the curtailment by the army of its campus units. Approximately that many advanced engineering students will remain after this term's graduation March 27. The number could be increased if advanced area and language students remain or if other advanced engineering students are assigned here, but no assurance of such action was given in the first announcement.

3 Local Men Enter Race

Additional hats were hurried into the city and county political ring Thursday when three local men, two of them incumbent county officers announced their candidacies for the May 19 primaries. Delbert Long, 645 South 12th street, school teacher for several years in this vicinity, filed for the republican nomination for constable of the Salem district, a position now held by Earl Adams, democrat. Long's campaign slogan is, "No election ever changed my politics."

County Treasurer Sam J. Butler filed for reelection on the republican ticket, his ballot statement reading, "Conduct office in courteous and business-like manner."

Roy J. Rice, county commissioner pro tem by appointment, formally entered his candidacy for the position as a republican nominee at the primaries after Wednesday announcing his intention to run following withdrawal of Ralph Girod, on leave of absence from the post to serve with the armed forces.

Today's Garden

By LILLIE MADSEN
N. W. asks if soil in which seeds are planted should be fertilized.
Answer: We are told that most seeds germinate more rapidly if sown in soil which is not fertilized.
Mrs. F. C. asks what soil is best for delphiniums, and when they should be set out. She wants to buy the plants.
Answer: It is plenty early to plant them out. But when the soil is workable and the growers have the plants ready to sell, then get them into the ground. A good garden soil is all right. Set the crowns about two inches below the surface and spread the roots out well. The ground should be well drained. If water stands over the crowns of delphiniums they may decay. A row of hardwood ashes spread loosely over the top and a good collar of ashes around the plant will help condition the soil and keep the slugs away.

Stevens

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