

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Shifts in Trade Balances

While world trade is now government-controlled and directly related to necessities of the war, some very interesting things are happening which the public knows little about. In the case of the United States and Great Britain enormous quantities of goods are being purchased from neutral or allied nations, while there is no corresponding outflow of goods. As a result these neutral or allied nations which still are free to trade with us are accumulating large balances in New York and London. In this country the increase is in deposits in federal reserve and other banks, amounting to over half a billion dollars since December of 1941. In addition there has been an increase in gold ear-marked or foreign account, amounting to about a billion and a quarter dollars. Our gold stocks have decreased by about three quarters of a billion.

South American countries have profited by the export surplus to allied countries. Many of them have been buying up their dollar loans, building up balances in our banks and taking title if not delivery on gold. When the war is over they can withdraw the gold or use their credits in the purchase of goods here.

This is not at all alarming so far as American trade is concerned. We have some 60 per cent of the world's gold supply, which is an undue proportion. Much of it came here in flight from other currencies which were weak because of unsettled political and economic conditions. Every country should have its own working balance of gold as a basis for its currency system and for settlement of trade balances with other countries.

The basis for sustained world trade is soundness of the currency systems of participating countries, particularly the great trading countries. That is obtained when budgets are kept in balance, when inflation is avoided, and government credit kept at a good level. It is destroyed under continued public deficits, covered by increasing borrowings from central banks. Our country should lead the way toward getting its financial house in order as soon as possible after the war, terminating the over-spending and encouraging trade and enterprise. And we should assist other countries to do the same, not by generous extensions of credit but by policies which build up local and world confidence in their financial stability.

Spending for Guayule

The federal government has spent \$37,000,000 on a guayule rubber program and has only 400 tons of production to show for the expenditure, according to Representative John Phillips of California, a member of the house agricultural committee which is going to investigate the experiment. One item to be looked into is an appropriation of \$750,000 for "housing facilities" in localities adjacent to the guayule fields.

After the Japs cut off rubber supplies from the far east there was a frantic scramble for substitutes. Guayule, dandelion and other plants were considered as sources of natural rubber, and enormous sums were expended in developing rubber up the Amazon river, the native home of the tree. Evidently greater zeal in spending than intelligence was employed; and the waste looms as enormous.

The tragic feature of the domestic administration in this war has been its extravagance. The training of the WPA days through the '30's made the government departments prodigal spenders. The people, eager to get on with the war, did not expect military leaders or production authorities to count pennies; but they are disheartened and disillusioned at the signs of waste which loom on every hand. They have seen it nearly everywhere that the hand of government has touched; and read about it in such deals as the Canol oil project in Canada. When the audit is made, the people are going to be resentful of the administration which

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
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The advent of spring is at hand in Europe and the war sap is rising on all fronts, east, south and west, to stamp it as the crisis season.

Within the scope of the spring and summer months ahead lies the answer to the fundamental Anglo-American war concept—smash Hitler first, then turn all-out against Japan. Full Russian concurrence with that basic principal of strategy has been proven, even though Russia's ultimate role against Japan as well as Germany cannot yet be certainly stated.

Moscow and Tokyo still are bound by their non-aggression pact. A year ago it was a vital element in Russian policy, since Nazi invaders were investing Leningrad and still threatening Moscow.

Twelve months have reversed the picture. It is Japan that now finds salvation in that dubious peace deal with Russia—salvation from complete encirclement and from immediate close range air attack from bases in Siberia.

Even so, Japanese Pacific defenses have been punctured fatally by American forces. In Burma Nipponese hopes of preventing allied rearming of China as a prime base for attack are withering.

Events of the last weeks and months in the Asia-Pacific theater leave no doubt that the war tide has turned as definitely there as in Europe despite allied concentration on the hit-Hitler-first slogan.

They invite conjecture that behind recent commings and goings of American commanders in the Pacific theaters for Washington conferences lie preparation to speed up the war against Japan now. Fatal defects have been disclosed in enemy Pacific defense deployments. The increasing attrition drain upon Nipponese sea and air power is obvious. It can be done now without prejudice to the main campaign in Europe.

It is in Europe, however, that the key conception of Russian-allied military planning at Teheran is coming to fruition with the spring. Day by day the pattern of military and related political moves which was decided upon there is becoming clearer, soaring toward the climax of power blows against the common foe foretold in the Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin announcement.

spent money so foolishly. War is wasteful, but our national government has surely put its spending apparatus in high gear, as the guayule experiment shows.

Relief in Sight

Congress has finally waked up to the necessity of cutting the income tax pain in two. It doesn't cut the tax, but it does cut the agony of the present system of reporting. According to Chairman Doughton of the house ways and means committee 30 million of the 50 million taxpayers will be relieved of the necessity of making out tax returns. They will not be relieved of taxes, though, for taxes will be withheld from earnings.

The victory tax will be abolished and a new set-up of normal and surtax rates prepared, with the exemption cut to \$500. Chairman Doughton says that "nobody will be hurt much or helped much" as far as the amount of their taxes goes; but they will be spared the complications of the present tax structure and report forms.

The consolidation of the victory tax with the normal tax is a practical means of simplifying the tax system, and when accompanied by lowered exemption and withholding at the source the collections ought not to drop much; and after all the purpose of taxation is to get money for the government.

The changes would not go into effect until next January and have still to be implemented in law; but the reporting curse is over for this year (except for the April 15th) so the prospect of relief next January will be most welcome.

Just to sweeten the public after announcing a cut in the gas ration is OPA's statement that the sugar ration will not be cut. We'll need sugar's extra energy for the greater amount of walking we will have to do.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, March 18 — The progressive educators are trying to turn off the evidence of what they have done to American youth—evidence on the front pages of the newspapers daily in juvenile delinquency developments — as the inaccurate criticism of an ignorant columnist.

They are writing letters to the papers along that line, issuing interviews to some teachers' publications.

Contrariwise, teachers in a large number of schools have stealthily thumbtacked my columns to their bulletin boards with underscorings and "amens" mysteriously pencilled in. Teachers and PTA magazines have been reprinting the columns. School boards are writing in for more and back copies. Educators are requesting them by the hundreds for distribution (requests I cannot fulfill).

And the mail from college professors, principals, schoolboards and teachers has piled in daily for the past month with detailed examples of the sorry condition of American education, saying much worse things about it than I have related.

All I said was we are raising a nation of half-wits. The evidence indicated I over-estimated the fraction by possibly 50 per cent.

Now here is a disclosed struggle between educators of which the public is not generally aware. On top in many towns apparently are the Columbia Teachers College groups preaching their "take it easy, children" methods, "don't work too hard," "we will make education interesting for you."

On the other hand, are the great bulk of the teachers of the country, sick at heart at the results of this lax system, disillusioned, frightened at the big education trust hanging over them. They write: "Do not use my name."

They send me clippings showing what the big trust is saying about me, and add such notes as: "This so-called educator is a political hack foisted off on us by the local political machine." "What to do? For the first thing, let everyone know that the campaign of the progressive educators is false."

Criticism of the educational system was not concocted by "a columnist." It existed, and a columnist discovered it for the general public, not for those of the teaching profession who have long participated in the struggle to correct the laxities which have put pupils beyond their reach with either learning or discipline. This sidetracking of the issue is a common political trick.

The "ins" always attempt to hold their jobs by pretending all is well, that anyone who dares suggest otherwise is unworthy of notice.

In this case it cannot deceive anyone. The fact that there has been a breakdown in our standards of education and in discipline generally is too obvious to all parents.

If the progressives attempt to maintain themselves by this method, they eventually must lose their skins. A wiser technique for them would be to say:

"Let's look into the problem; let's see what corrections can be made."

In the second place, I shall write one more column containing more evidence of the breakdown in educational standards—evidence obtained only from educators. It will be published immediately after the present one.

But what else? I think there should be a congressional investigation of the situation. A complete job being too vast for a columnist undertaking (my primary interest is juvenile delinquency of which education is only one phase), it must be done by authorities empowered to drive the Gideon plianishes out of teaching leadership.

The danger of a congressional investigation is that it, too, would be political. Perhaps a moderate such as Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, president of Chicago university, might bring the necessary impetus to bear to break the trust. Perhaps educational investigating boards in the states and cities or the PTAs could accomplish something.

Possibly a presidential commission, working as the Wickersham commission did on prohibition, might furnish the hickory stick.

Whatever is needed to break the political educational racket of laxity must be done, and done by educators themselves. A movement along that line would be popular. It is time to start.

Today's Radio Programs

KELM-SUNDAY-1290 Kc.
6:30-News of the World
6:35-Wait Time
6:40-News in Brief
6:45-News of Today
6:50-World in Review
6:55-News of Tomorrow
7:00-News of Tomorrow
7:05-News of Tomorrow
7:10-News of Tomorrow
7:15-News of Tomorrow
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4:15-News
4:20-The Whistler
4:25-The Star and the Story
4:30-William Winter, News
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It's Kids Who Fight This War, Correspondent Finds at Front

by KENNETH L. DIXON
WITH THE AEF IN SARDINIA, March 12.—(Delayed)—(AP)—Every time you turn around you're confronted anew with the realization that it's the kids who fight the war.

This B26 Marauder outfit in Sardinia is no exception. Sitting around the supper table after the day's missions are over, the pilots, co-pilots and bombardiers look like a bunch of college kids—so young they take a terrific pride in the daily progress of their faint, wispy mustaches.

Some even look more like high school kids. First Lt. Roscoe Newmeyer of Evansville, Ind., is a good example. He's a first pilot, veteran of more than 40 combat missions, and has had more close calls than you can shake a Mae West at.

But they call him "Junior," and with good reason. He's only 19 years old, a tall clean-cut, skinny kid with tousled brown hair and a dimpled chin—but a pair of eyes which coldly belie anything babyish about the rest of his face.

He has a fantastic record. His buddies, who sometimes also call him "glamor boy" to his face, then behind his back tell you he's one of the hottest pilots they've ever seen; tell how he slipped away from Indiana before we were in the war and joined the Royal Canadian air force with faked birth credentials when barely 17.

When the US entered the war, Junior transferred and finished his training with Uncle Sam, earning a reputation as an excellent if somewhat reckless pilot.

Overseas, Junior has been through the works. Not long ago he was so badly shot up over a target that he had his gunners throw out their guns, ammunition and flak suits in an effort to hold his altitude long enough to get back over friendly territory.

His propellers were damaged and his controls shot up. Enemy fighters closed in on the crippled

Practical Religion

—by Rev. John L. Knight, Jr.,
Counselor on Religious Life,
Williamette university.

Mary Carolyn Davies has a little verse which goes: "We've heard of no rules, the flowers and I, But born of dust, not knowing why, We lift our faces to the sky." There's a great experience expressed in those few lines. Somehow, somewhere, sometime, all of us have felt the tug of the Infinite on our lives. In the midst of the glorious grandeur of the forest, looking out over the sea at sunset, in the presence of some truly noble character, or looking at the Cross in an hour of divine meditation, we have felt the pull of the Invisible, the magnetism of the Divine. Yes, there is a Divine attraction in life — God pulling our hearts to Him.

7:30-Contested Hour
7:30-Information Please
7:30-Fred Waring in Pleasure Time
8:15-Fleetwood Lawton, Commentator
8:30-Cavalcade of America
9:00-The Telephone Hour
9:30-Hawthorne House
10:00-News Flashes
10:15-Your Home Town News
10:25-Design for Dancing
10:45-Voice of a Nation
11:00-Hotel Baltimore Orchestra
11:30-War News
12:30-2 a.m.—Swing Shift

WITH SONS AT WAR ... AMERICA NEEDS WORKERS!

What's a "fighter-backer"? It's the patriotic American... man, woman or child... who does his share and more to back up our fighters... who really works for Victory. That's a "fighter-backer". Only your conscience can tell you whether or not you are a "fighter-backer". What does your conscience say?

BE A FIGHTER-BACKER you can do a lot

Stevens
Preferred Diamond Guarantee
We will replace any Stevens Diamond lost from its setting without charge.
Come in and See Our Guarantee

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