

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Labor in Politics

Candidate Wayne Morse told the IWA (CIO) convention at Eugene that labor "was walking down the right road in taking an active interest in politics." That may be correct as a general statement, but not without limitations insofar as CIO present practice is concerned. It is proper for labor to take an interest in politics; but to do so as citizens rather than as a group-conscious segment of the population. The use of union funds collected by assessment is also undemocratic, because individuals should retain their own freedom of decision in contributing to campaign funds as well as in casting their ballots.

It is a grievous error to have political parties divided by class or property lines. One trouble with the republican party is that there are too many business men in it, while the democratic party suffers from lack of business men. In other words our parties should divide on vertical rather than horizontal lines.

The AF of L has usually limited its participation to endorsements or denunciations of candidates. Rarely or never has it raised or used funds of its unions in political campaigning save for particular issues of concern to labor. The CIO is more aggressive politically, which is all right if it wants to be aggressive; but it should not seek to function as a class bloc, but rather should put the obligations of citizenship first.

Subsidy for Unemployment

Norman Thomas, hardy perennial as socialist candidate for president, drives a nail in the Roosevelt candidacy when he charges:

Before the war he had not conquered unemployment, but established it and subsidized the unemployed at a level of about 23 per cent of the workers.

The charge is correct. Roosevelt's policy was to subsidize unemployment through WPA, CCC, NYA. The recession of 1938 showed how far his program was from providing unemployment security. It was saved by the rush to rearmament beginning in 1939, and full employment now is caused by orders for war goods plus diversion of 10 million men and women in military service and hence out of economic production.

Thomas of course wants the country to go socialist, which would mean that everyone would be put in government lockstep. Most Americans are fearful of that situation in which they would sacrifice freedom and if the system sagged or collapsed they would not get enough to eat. Roosevelt's theory is to "charge it."

Paul Bloch, whose funeral was held on Monday, was a fine type of merchant, industrious, honorable and courteous. Instead of aspiring to great expansion he preferred a single store, and that of a size which permitted him to keep in direct contact with his customers by his own selling. Thus with his knowledge of merchandise, his friendly personality and reputation for fair dealing he won a wide circle of friends and attained success in his business. He proved his loyalty to his adopted country by service in the first world war and by support of patriotic causes in this war.

The Pendleton East Oregonian finds it possible to boost both democrat and republican candidates for vice president, saying that "both men are regarded as having their feet on the ground." That's the proper place for feet of office-holders, instead of in the trough. Noses are enough for the latter.

Editorial Comment

From Other Papers

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES AS SPEAKERS

As Governor Dewey pronounced the opening sentence of his acceptance speech—"I am profoundly moved by the trust you have placed in me"—it was apparent that the republican party, for the first time since 1916, has a nominee who speaks the language flawlessly. In the radio age, this is a matter for the party's self-congratulation.

Charles Evans Hughes, of course, was and is a master of oratory. His deep, vibrant tones, voicing the content of a richly furnished mind, have not been heard in recent years, but the memory of them lingers. In campaigning for Mr. Hoover against Governor Smith in 1926, he seemed to lift that rough-and-tumble battle, redolent of the sidewalks of New York, to ethereal heights. He sounded as we think the prophets of ancient Israel must have intoned their injunctions to the people.

To say that Warren Harding tortured the language is to put it mildly. His rhetoric was so ornate and involved as to suggest a piece of rococo architecture. Some of his sentences defied analysis. Calvin Coolidge's delivery, though he expressed himself well, was marred by his nasal drawl. Struggle though he has, Mr. Hoover has always fought a losing battle to make himself effective on the platform. The subtle loveliness of the language eludes him. He cannot wield the saber cuts of Saxon speech but instead loads his sentences with turgid phrases and leans on words of Latin derivation.

Of Mr. Landon's platform manner, perhaps the less said the better. He always spoke as though the microphone was a saber-toothed tiger about to devour him, and as though he had only one eye on his manuscript and the other on a potential adversary. The result was that his audience never was quite sure that he meant what he was saying. One of the most delightful of speakers; when he addresses a small audience extemporaneously, is Wendell Willkie. Before a microphone, his natural charm is somehow lost and, while he speaks with great vigor and earnestness, he seems at times to be engaging the language in a wrestling match.

Mr. Dewey's mellifluous flow of English will be a great asset to him in this campaign, though we have yet to learn how well he can invest a platform presence with the content that will impress his hearers. —St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

HIGH AS HAMAN

A private obituary notice in a Berlin newspaper announces the death of General Adolf Hamann. When the Russians captured him at Bobruisk, they said he would be tried as a war criminal and be hanged if convicted. If that is what they did, they followed Bible history, for Haman the Agagite, who sought to destroy all the Jews, was hanged by King Ahasuerus on a gallows 50 cubits high. —San Francisco Chronicle.

Secret Weapon

Americans have been uncovering a secret weapon in the invasion of the Marianas. Its nature remains a secret even to the Americans although the Japs on Tinian island have already had the secret revealed to them in a most unwelcome manner. A correspondent with Admiral Nimitz says "It is easy to foresee the devastation and death which would result from its use on such targets as the crowded cities of the Japanese homeland." Its lethal character is indicated when the report says it is doubtful if any human being within 100 feet of its action can survive.

Evidently this is the "real McCoy" as far as secret weapons go. Whether it is a new instrument or an explosive of greater power we can't tell, but it must pack a death-dealing punch. Maybe it would be well to let a few Japs swim back to Honshu to tell the new premier just what is in store for him and his fellow Nipponese. Whatever it is, if it can speed up victory it will prove a valuable addition to the arsenal of war.

Railway Age, recognized advocate for the railroads, accuses the Automotive Foundation with violating the cardinal principle of free enterprise in promoting super-highways at government expense, and says that the transportation policies the auto manufacturers advocate are "as socialistic as those advocated by any new dealer deriving his inspiration from eastern Europe." The Railway Age is correct in theory; but friends of railroads didn't raise that point in the days of land grants to roads to help finance their construction; and now the Railway Age and others want relief for the roads from their old bargain to give cut rates to government forever, because of the grants. Theory and practice get badly scrambled, when there's a chance to pull Uncle Sam's leg.

General Franco of Spain has offered his collaboration in negotiating an early peace. He says that prolongation of the war will lead only to chaos, adding "modern wars do not serve to resolve anybody's problems." Franco is just doing a little preliminary squealing on his own account. Having hitched his wagon to the stars of Mussolini and Hitler he can see "chaos" for himself in their defeat. He didn't feel the same about war when he started his revolution in Spain in 1936.

Eugene is getting a locally legalized fair rent control committee. If the committee does as good a job as the one in Salem it will find the problem cured after a few months. Here, wise council selling plus the loosening of demand for housing effectively stopped rent gouging.

The Japs on Tinian island are about done in, and soon those on Guam will be yelling their last "banzai" for the emperor. When Yanks and tanks start rolling together nothing can stop them.

The axe and the pitchfork are responsible for more farm accidents than any other tools, reports the state industrial accident commission. And more work too, and callouses, the commission might add.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

While the Normandy peninsula now firmly in allied hands represents no more than a secure foothold in France, it is a foothold of infinite possibilities.

It commands not only a variety of approaches to Paris, but those to the vast central plain of France that lies between the Seine and the Loire. It provides along both coasts beach or estuary landing sites to supplement the supply flow through Cherbourg, insuring adequate deliveries close up to the fighting fronts. And most of all, it dominates absolutely its greater neighbor, the Brest tip of Brittany peninsula.

That seems so clear on the map that the total collapse of the Nazi left flank defenses in Normandy, sending American first army tank columns roaring unchallenged into the streets of Avranches seems highly significant. It suggested that a German flight from Brittany may be impending. There is a possibility that no more than a skeleton coastal deployment actually stands between the allied invasion and a thrust to St. Nazaire at the mouth of the Loire.

The tank column that charged into Avranches to shut another trap on German seventh army remnants above that point is already threatening Rennes, prime Brittany road and rail hub about 50 miles to the south and slightly west of Avranches. No important river barrier or other natural defense front guards it.

Capture of Avranches exposes the Brittany peninsula, the most remote and difficult sector of the enemy front in all France for reinforcement and supply purposes, to immediate outflanking by a march on Rennes, or to occupation by combined land and amphibious operations if that should be the allied purposes.

That the Nazi high command has already virtually written Brittany off as lost is more than probable. It remains to be seen, however, whether the allied drive goes on in that direction or strikes anew from the British-Canadian bulge below Caen to expand the front southeastward toward the Seine.

The conclusion that the foe dare not risk an all out defense of Brittany for lack of both ground power to maintain a continuous battle line of that length and of air power to repel new amphibious or airborne attacks is inescapable. His only alternative would be a retreat from Brittany to leave many additional ports including Brest in allied hands.

German total casualties in Normandy by now probably exceed 200,000 men and all but irreparable armor and motorized equipment. A battle for maneuver with the whole great plain of central France providing the theater of action is now looming. It will call for more men and equipment than have yet been committed in the west by the foe, and at a time when Berlin is scraping the bottom of its reserves barrel to meet the gigantic Russian offensive in the east.



Beginning the Last Chapter

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, July 31.—The international bank created in the woods at Bretton is misnamed. It is nothing like a bank, except that it will be a place for foreign nations to tions to get money. It is really a credit guarantee institution.

Only one-fifth of its proposed loans for rehabilitation and development will be guarantees of loans by private bankers. As a matter of fact, the negotiators at Bretton did not want to call it a bank, but could think of no other word. A bank, as you know, is a place where people deposit their money, which is taken by the banker and loaned to bring a profit to the institution. Any comparison of that formula to what was set up at Bretton is humorous if not ironical.

Certain general standards for the loans were fixed, but these were the easiest possible standards naturally. They were not the standards of banks for commercial loans. What these standards are will become fully apparent only as the loans are made and the complex wordings of the agreement are interpreted by the heads of the institution. But the whole idea is to promote foreign rehabilitation and development (not to get the money back) so the standards, you may be sure, were fixed accordingly.

What the realistic Russians thought of this is apparent in their actions. They fought for the lowest possible part in the bank, and the best part they could get in the exchange arrangement. Participation in the bank obviously is a liability. But participation in the exchange agreement will give the Russians more dollars and more pounds, and also give them more power in world trade voting, as voting power over the fund is to be based on the extent of monetary participation.

In fact, the observers thought the Russians did the best in the dickering. They finally came

into the bank at the ratio assigned (higher than they wanted, but not our first figure) only after we agreed to increase our own participation.

The British remained pretty much in the background. Lord Keynes (author of easy-spending policies) ran the bank end of the conference, but held only one press conference.

Our Harry White ran the monetary exchange end, and appearing as front man for the gathering.

The Latin Americans handled the miscellaneous part and Mexico got in a few kicks for silver. The Latins had 19 out of the 40 odd nations on the ground—nearly half.

Will the exchange agreement stabilize exchange at the existing level, or at a fair and just level as everyone wishes? It will have trouble. The agreement did not fix rates. We have already fixed some rates for ourselves, the invasion rate of a 2 cent franc and a 1 cent lire.

In the negotiations each country wanted to keep its rate as high as possible against the dollar and thus China achieved the prospect of a 5 cent yuan. That is a politically friendly rate, not an actual rate.

One expert recently out of China said the true internal rate of the yuan runs anywhere from 500 to 1500 to the dollar. The indicated rate of 5 cents in the agreement will be difficult to sustain. Even 2 cents, some say, might be difficult.

Actually under the agreement present rates of exchange are not to be frozen, but will be fixed from time to time in the future under the principles laid down, principles which are more or less geared to existing rates.

The defect of the fund is that the contributions to it are to be largely in the currencies of foreign nations, the worth of which in the future may depend on anything else but the controls of the international exchange agreement.

Furthermore it prevents countries which might pay in gold, and have some gold with which to pay, from using it (France, Latin America, Russia).

The conclusion must be reached, therefore, that this exchange

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

adopted. Right there is where McGuffey and his famous readers come in. Writes the Judge:

"These men of '79 who sat in the halls of congress were boys in the fifties." They may have listened to William McGuffey filling the chair of moral philosophy in the University of Virginia. This, he did for more than a quarter of a century. If their training only extended to the common school, they found there the series of readers by William McGuffey—First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth readers. The first was but a primer for a boy of tender years, but the fifth and sixth embraced the most beautiful classics.

In the primer, about every fourth lesson, was one that taught the boy how to live. He must not lie, and there followed the story of Washington and the cherry-tree. He must be honest and just, and there followed the story of the broken window and the silver dollar. He must respect his parents and there followed the story of the jeweler who would lose a great profit rather than awake his father from the joy and comfort of his evening fiesta.

These environments created a standard of ethics and morals which ruled the America of our fathers. It was the Victorian era translated to the American conception. . . . May the postmaster general, therefore, have not been warranted in reaching his conclusions that the literature referred to was literature of desirable type of an educational value?"

Mr. Grundy walks again, and because McGuffey sought to indoctrinate youth with morality while they learned to read a postmaster general and a judge decide near a century later to put a magazine out of business, because it does not conform to the McGuffey school of literature

agreement does not itself stabilize exchange, but merely furnishes an \$8,000,000 fund, through which it may be done. As for the \$9,100,000 bank, it will go on the rocks sooner or later.

The Safety Valve

Letter from Statesman Readers

PANNING OF PLANNING—

972 Parrish Street,

Salem, Oregon.

To the Editor:

That word Planning has taken a lot of panning and abuse of late.

But note this:—in almost every planning project you will find it stated as one of the main objectives—"to act as a clearing house". Therein I believe lies all the trouble.

This expression is the red flag of warning. It advises that dangerous generalities may conceal some well known business pitfalls. At least there is always the implication that some other fellow must be doing the real hard spade work while the keen eyed professor looks on.

Planning is a virtue. That self-imposed "clearing-house" phrase usually indicates a lack of controlled objectives. If these really existed they would quickly find their own original words for expression in the plan. The practical program never carries that danger flag. Planning is something else.

Yours sincerely,
William H. Crawford.

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT

Army Construction
"Bulls in Khaki"
Doing Great Work

WITH THE AEF IN ITALY, July 22 —(Delayed) —(P)—One of the hottest efficiency records the American army boasts is the speed with which wrecked and ruined harbors from Palermo to Civitavecchia have been rebuilt. Yet the guys who do the job are as little like regular army men as you'll find. They are mostly a group of "construction stiffs in khaki" — former civilians who swapped good jobs and big dough for a serial number, and army pay, and kept right on doing what they were doing.

Major Charles O'Toole of Pittsburgh is the boss of one outfit, and he swears and shouts and runs the gang much as he did on construction jobs back home. One of his right-hand men is Technical Sgt. Malcolm MacDougal from Seattle, a pile-

driver foreman who says "If the major didn't bawl me out every few days I'd think he was mad at me."

MacDougal, originally a lumberman, is the guy who set up the sawmill when a lumber shortage slowed the work in Naples harbor. It turned out 4000 board feet a day and relieved shortages all over southern Italy.

Another veteran construction man who carries a huge part of O'Toole's responsibility is Master Sgt. Kieng Nelson, 50-year-old Brooklynite who has two sons in the army, and a lifetime of building behind him.

Then there's veteran driver "Peanuts" Sonnergren of New York whose most famous job was at Palermo, where two sunken subchasers loaded with depth charges blocked the harbor entrance and no one knew at what depth the charges were set to explode. But Sgt. Sonnergren went down 24 feet, put slings on them and had them hoisted up to the surface where checks showed that they were set for 30 feet.

Acting topkick on their Civitavecchia job was Sgt. Martin Krichmar, one of several guys in the outfit who helped salvage the French liner Normandie in civilian days. Critics explain the outfit's efficiency by the fact that most of them are volunteers who answered the call for construction men back in November, 1942, when the army was just learning in north Africa that it needed builders badly.

The boys in the 34th division still tell you about the unarmed Italian aide worker who stumbled across the hidden German machine pistol expert who was about ready to mow down a bunch of his buddies. He jumped on the jerry, knocked the gun out of his hand, grabbed him by the throat, shook him awhile and then let go long enough to knock him cold with one hammering haymaker. Whereupon he dragged the unconscious German over to a bunch of rifle-men saying:

"Do you want me to bring him to now, or wait until it's convenient for someone to take him to the rear?"

Today's Garden

By LILLIE MADSEN

Mrs. M. H. writes that she has dug her daffodil bulbs that were infected with the fly and have tried to separate the sound from the others. She wants to know what to do to disinfect the bulbs and kill the worm. How long a period before the bulbs can be replanted in the same ground? Can the fly be controlled by hoeing more dirt around the plants at the end of the blooming season?

Answer: Discard and burn badly infested bulbs that have become light in weight and feel soft. Submerge the other bulbs for 2 1/2 hours in hot water which is held at a temperature of 110 degrees. Immerse in cold water as soon as they are removed. This will kill the larvae in all stages of its development and will not harm the bulb if it has not started root growth.

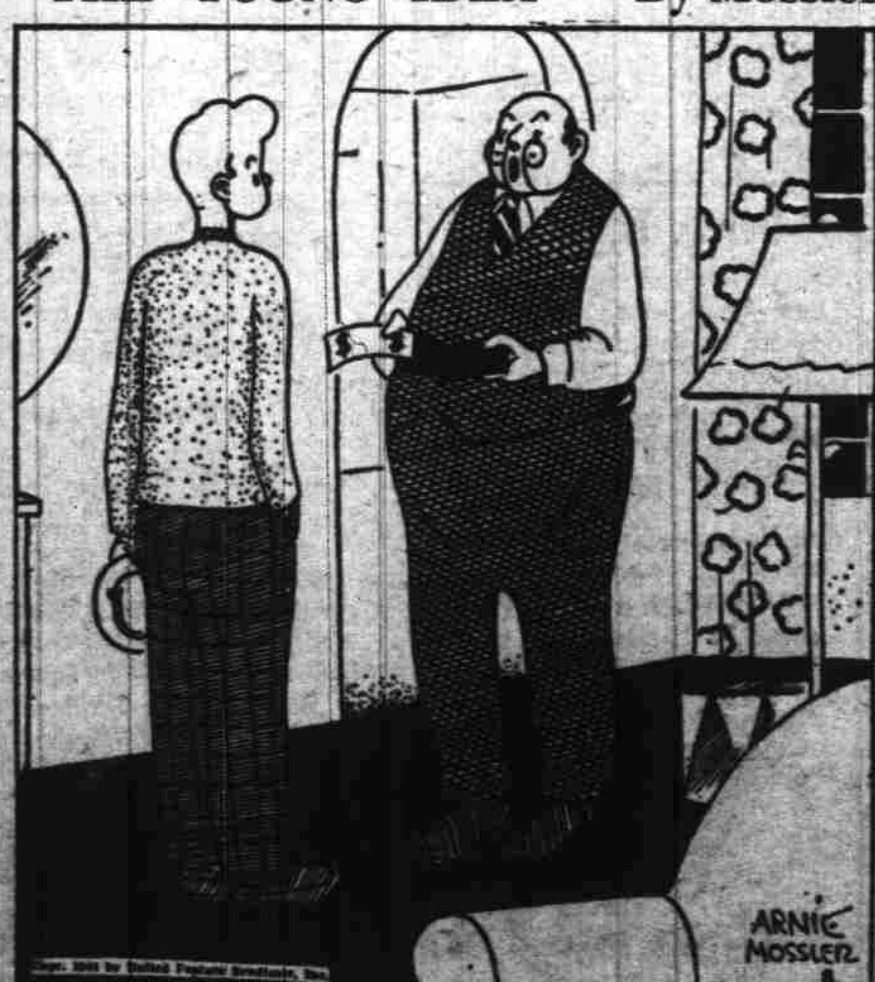
Growers say that it would be best not to plant the narcissus bulbs in the same ground for a year or two. Some growers report they disinfect small areas with formaldehyde. But as the pupa stage is frequently passed in the soil, it would be much safer, it would seem, to disinfect the soil, and then plant the bulb elsewhere for a year or two. I have never heard of controlling the fly by hoeing soil up about the plants at the end of the blooming season. The adult fly, which is yellow and black in color and resembles a small bumble bee, lays her eggs in the neck of the bulb or at the base of the leaves. It might help, but I have an idea she would still lay the eggs where the soil and leaves meet. The young maggots bore their way into the bulb and begin feeding. If the bulbs were protected very well during the early stage of the maggot, it might starve to death. Naphthalene flakes, placed around the base of the plant until danger of the fly is over, does discourage their egg-laying process near the bulbs.

and art. This is what you might call horse and buggy morality. It's a buggy, at least.

The law of 1879 was very general. It is the narrow interpretation by the postmaster general which offends. You cannot in a great, free country, put hobbies and blunders on newspapers and periodicals, particularly if all is left to the discretion of one man. Esquire may cater to a risqué taste, but it is not wholly devoid of information and artistic matter. Better to admit it to second-class mailing than to invite censorship which, growing with time, may stifle freedom of speech and expression.

Our schools do not use McGuffey's readers today; our courts should not thumb ancient copies of these texts to find basis for judging today's writing and reading.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"I wish you'd go steady with ONE girl, Thomas. . . . I can't afford to have you playing the field!"

Stevens



As featured in Vogue and Mademoiselle! . . . Pins with the new "light" touch to add glitter and glamour to your costume.

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