

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Riga Redevisa

The Russians, according to late dispatches, are launching a drive on Riga, the capital of Latvia; and this brings an old, old city back into the news again. Once one of the cities of the Hanseatic league, that group of independent trading towns which flourished along the Baltic sea, Riga was successively ruled by the Teutonic knights, Sweden and Russia, until after the first world war it became the capital of independent Latvia, which with its neighbors Estonia and Lithuania made up the so-called Baltic states.

Riga was in the news prominently a quarter-century ago. It then was one of the world's most famous listening-posts. It was the Co-blenz of the Russian revolution. Gathered there were the emigres, the White Russians, international spies and whole armies of correspondents who tried to use it for a peephole into the night that was Soviet Russia. The rumors that were filed at Riga burdened the cables and proved about as dependable as the yarns which now come out of Stockholm, Berne or Istanbul. Those were the days when the western world was filled with fear and horror about Russia—fear that its new religion of communism would overrun its borders, and horror at the reports of slaughtering of the nobility, the bourgeoisie, the clergy and the intelligents of old Russia. So each item with a Riga dateline was eagerly scanned in London, in Paris, in New York and Washington.

As the bolsheviks consolidated their power and assassinations grew less frequent, and as the western nations outgrew their fright of communist revolution, and as the dispatches from Riga proved so often to be only the products of rumor-mill, Riga declined in news importance, and one-by-one the correspondents were called home.

What of the future of the Baltic states? Russia has already announced its intention of incorporating them into the union of soviet socialist republics; and that is what most likely will happen once the Germans are driven out. Nor is this unreasonable, because they long were part of Russia, and their differences in race are no greater than those of other components of the USSR. Riga was a Russian city of no little prominence in the days before the first world war, a port of entry for trade with interior Russia. As a Russian city again it should be able to recapture its commercial importance, though it would lose its glamor as a capital—and even in America no city likes to lose the county seat.

Now the names in the news are reviving memories for the veterans of 1917-18—Brest, Rennes, LeMans, Angers, Lorient. Soon perhaps other memories will be revived if these names bet into the news: Chateau Thierry, Soissons, the Argonne. Many will follow the allied advance with greater eagerness because their own sons are treading in their footsteps of 26 years ago.

Hitler's orders to his armies on the eastern front read: "Germany is immediately behind your back." Correct; and the German generals know that Hitler's hangmen are there to welcome them.

One of the county papers runs an ad for "bolts" for a local concern: "Most all sizes and lengths to choose from. Come here for your bolts." Southern democrats might lay in a supply.

Art (Smudge-Pot) Perry has resumed his column in the Medford Mail-Tribune and explains that its absence was caused by neuritis of his knee. His is the first knee-action typewriter we ever heard of in a newspaper office.

Oregon legionnaires are holding their 26th annual convention in Portland. Legion conventions, like the old grey mare, "ain't what they used to be."

Editorial Comment

From Other Papers

PACIFIC WAR

We do not know the identity of the British officials the National Association of Manufacturers says are insisting that lend-lease aid must continue after Germany collapses, if Britain is to take its full part in the Pacific war.

The NAM does not identify these officials and the omission is not important one way or the other so far as the facts of British action in the Pacific is concerned.

That action will not be to help out the United States in a task it cannot handle alone. It is no reflection on British integrity to point out that the British have an imperial interest in the Pacific. With the burden of European war lifted we could deal with the Japanese singlehanded and swiftly.

We have not been able to understand the minds of those Americans who worry so plaintively about the British, or the Australians, or the Dutch or somebody else giving us enough help to defeat Japan. We do not believe that the man knocking over Japanese defenses from a bomber or on a battleship scouring the seas for Japanese ships, or taking Japanese pill boxes in hand-to-hand combat, is worrying about help from any foreign nation. He wants help from the United States and he is going to get plenty of it to finish the job. —San Francisco Chronicle.

PAPER BOMBING

During the first 4 1/2 years of the war the RAF dropped more than 1,250,000,000 leaflets, newspapers and magazines over Germany and occupied Europe. French people are regularly receiving several different newspapers and magazines; over Holland an 8-page weekly newspaper and a 48-page monthly magazine are dropped as well as leaflets containing messages from Queen Wilhelmina; and Belgium, Denmark, Norway, occupied Italy, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Luxembourg all receive their periodicals from the air. There is plenty of evidence that the leaflet and newspaper raids are having their effect. Out of a batch of 41 German prisoners who surrendered in Italy, 9 had leaflets in their hands, 2 carried them in their shoes, and others in their pockets. —British Information Service.

Welcome to Guam

Americans cannot help but be touched by evidence of the loyalty of the natives of Guam to the United States. There was the affecting picture of two little Guam children, each waving a flag of stars and stripes, which their mothers had made for them during the occupation. The flags had only nine stripes; one had 12 stars and the other 44, but the meaning of the symbol was clear: the family still considered itself American.

Then there was the report of the native who, returning to his home and finding it in ruins, and his village ruined too, was heard to say as he surveyed the wreckage, "It was worth it." He preferred to live under the stars and stripes, though he had to rebuild his dwelling, than to join the Nipponese in their co-prosperity sphere for East Asia.

It is believed that the Filipinos will welcome Americans back, though some have proven collaborationists and even gone to Tokyo to blab over the radio of the blessings of Jap occupation. The majority will be on hand to greet MacArthur on his return, because they feel they can trust him and trust American intentions of re-establishing a Philippine government which quickly will become independent.

The United States has not abused its power, and that is why it is both respected and revered.

Fill the Blood Bank

There is one admonition that should not go unheeded, and that is to keep the blood bank well filled. While there may be diminishing need for much of the gear of waging war, the need for more blood plasma increases with the widening of operations which is now taking place rapidly on the continent of Europe. There can be no letdown of supply of plasma so long as the fighting goes on; and this fact should be drilled into people's minds so they will keep up the stream through the various Red Cross blood-collecting channels, one of which is in Salem.

The pictures of treatment of the wounded often start with the administration of plasma, right within sound of the guns. To its use thousands of young men will credit their lives when they return home. What a bond of brotherhood this transfusion means to America. While the plasma carries no physical, mental or moral (or color) traits from the giver to the recipient, there is a transfusion of sacrifice in which the blood of thousands goes to restore to health and strength of other thousands injured in battle.

Keep the blood bank filled, and the plasma flowing to the hospitals wherever American service men and women are being treated. That is one substantial contribution people at home can make for their country and for humanity.

The law which sterilizes of political germs all matter furnished to the army now operates to bar Fibber McGee and Molly's picture "Heavenly Days" from distribution to camps and ships. Is there some way of stretching the ban to protect radio consumers of the Fibber McGee-Molly atrocity?

Hitler clings to the "don't change horses" theory too. At least he doesn't want to be left in the middle of the stream with his pants off.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

It is fitting that Pearl Harbor, forever associated with a December Sunday stained red with Nipponese infamy, should be the scene of an all-American conference of Pacific commanders with President Roosevelt to plan the final phases of the campaign in that ocean designed to set the sun of Japanese imperialism.

The men who lead American and allied forces which control the Pacific from the Arctic to the Antipodes were mustered there around Mr. Roosevelt. The decisions they have taken will be revealed only as their forces storm westward through the broken screen of Pacific islands. But there are certain conclusions to be drawn from the place and the timing of that Pacific war council that can leave Tokyo in no doubt of its significance.

It meant first of all that the time has now come and the means are now at hand to carry the war to Japan in the Philippines, across the China sea to Formosa and China, into the Kuriles and to Japan itself to enforce unconditional surrender.

It was that last coming strike of American armed power across the Pacific which concerned the president, General MacArthur, Admiral Nimitz and the others at Pearl Harbor. The shaken war cabinet in Japan needed no spies or key-hole observers to tell it that.

Many months ago to congress in Washington Prime Minister Churchill said that the "ultimate challenge" of American sea power would soon confront Japan in the far Pacific. That prediction now has been more than fulfilled and Japan has failed everywhere to meet the challenge or halt the ocean wide advance westward.

Last week Churchill told parliament in London that the key principle of Anglo-American joint war strategy adopted in 1942, which made Germany the "prime enemy" and left only "minimum" forces available in or beyond the Pacific "safeguarding vital interests," was now outmoded. Two wars could now be waged "with offensive vigor" he said, and the prospects "of a much more speedy climax in the far east" were bright. The bulk of British naval power would be in far eastern waters before the year end, Churchill announced.

The timing of the Pearl Harbor war council to tighten the screws on Japan everywhere, this year, is significant against the background of that Churchill disclosure of British fleet deployment. It must be linked, also, with the raising of General Stilwell to full four-star rank in the northern Burma-China theater, the creation of the superforce roving long-range air task force presently operating from China bases, the revelation that monster B-29 bombers for the giant Boeing bombers are in production; and with the operations of British sea-air task forces in the Bay of Bengal knocking warningly at the western Malacca strait gateway to the China sea.

The fruit of Pearl Harbor will may come quick on the heels of that conference to reveal its purpose ominously to Japan.



"Congress Back!"

The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY
"ESCAPE THE THUNDER," by Lt. Lonnie Coleman (Dutton; \$2).

Lonnie Coleman's "Escape the Thunder" is one of the youngest novels I ever read, and one of the most promising. It is difficult to be detailed about the first of those statements—the book has the glow that sometimes surrounds talented youth, it rides blindly over obstacles that would throw an older writer into a fit of the shakes, it is a little wide-eyed, very charming, and as Lieutenant Coleman's buddies would doubtless say, "damn swell."

It's about negroes. It's not, however, about negroes and whites, but about the life negroes live with themselves. This brings up the question of Lieutenant Coleman's right to do this sort of book, and one can only judge that matter by remembering that he was born 23 years ago in Bartow, Ga., grew up in Georgia, attended the University of Alabama and studied there with Hudson Strode, I believe. It is very likely that some of the super-sensitive people (both white and black) who are exercising themselves about "minority" problems will find something to disapprove in Lieutenant Coleman's book. I can only say that I think it sympathetic and more—it seems very friendly and sincere. If anybody is stupid enough to go ideologically hunting in this charming novel I can only hope they turn up something as frightful as a literary seaworm.

The book is set in Montgomery, Ala. Its chief male character is a boy named Luther, who turns up on Day street a few hours after he is released from prison. He had been convicted of killing a man, while drunk. He was convicted, it might be added, on the testimony of his buddy, a tough named Josh, who manages to become the black boss of Montgomery in the six years Luther is away. All of Day street is glad to see Luther, barring only Josh. Josh is not the same, which is understandable to Luther, who is not a fool.

Lieutenant Coleman's story is so simple that it would be unfair to summarize it. The crux of the matter is that when Josh tosses out his woman, Luther takes her

in. And from this far from spectacular event depends a web of emotional reaction that might have confused both the author and the reader. They don't, but they do fascinate the latter.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossier



"Regardless of how Count Basie would LIVE it, we'll interpret it as Beethoven intended!"

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, Aug. 10—I have not written lately about progressive education and its share in the responsibility for juvenile delinquency, because, everyone else seems to be doing and saying the right things about it.

Every man in the street today knows what is wrong with education. That question was asked of ten persons along the street in Toledo by The Blade's inquiring reporter. The answers were practically all the same:

"I don't believe the young people are getting a good start in arithmetic and spelling; too much stress on extracurricular activities";

"I believe my son is getting a better general education than I, but more emphasis should be placed on the three R's and on discipline";

"Graduates do not seem to know a boat simple necessary things like mathematics and spelling";

These words from a railroad man, barber and housewife are practically the same as have been arising from my typewriter since last January.

What we need for a well educated, intelligent, democratic nation (and a cure for juvenile delinquency) is discipline in home, school and church, discipline by all methods, particularly in the development of mental discipline and reasoning powers by education which stimulates the thought processes.

A professor friend of mine has a notion, novel to me, as to how we got into this modern mess. It shows the broader scope of the trouble beyond education and juvenile delinquency. His theory is that this century has

witnessed a decline in respect for reason. Our leading philosophers gradually pushed down the theory of common sense reasoning as a way of living and promoted the theory of living by intuition—"Living has value only as it satisfies men's appetites" and such stuff.

Thus, have developed such monstrous ogres of unreasoning civilization as fascism and communism.

Instead of each man reasoning things out for himself, weighing the factors as he sees them on both sides, and imposing this mass will on our customs and government, we have come into what Hitler in his extremities, calls guidance by emotional fanaticism. Everywhere we worship instinct instead of thought.

This has been an easy-selling doctrine to the average man. Human nature has made him a creature desiring comfort, ease, luxury. Reasoning things out is hard work. Study requires mental discipline. The average man will not do it, unless education requires it, and unless the whole way of life in the country demands it.

Where you get by intuition is well shown by where Hitler has taken himself and his entire nation.

Our people still have the right to reason for themselves. But in our country, we have been leading up to the intentional way of life by allowing some fools among our modern philosophers to tell us that we should individually live by the method—following instinct on sex, for instance, instead of reason.

In politics also, we have encouraged emotional leadership, the incitement of hatreds, but, most dangerous of all, we have promoted the herding instinct in government by worshipping totalitarian ways with government control of every phase of life of the individual.

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT
US Air Force Boys
In England Ready
For China Theater

By PRESTON GROVER
(Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon)
AN AMERICAN BOMBER BASE, English Midlands (AP)—If the air force boys in this neighborhood don't get a home leave before they are carried over to fight the Japanese, they are going to be pretty disappointed.

Stopping off here on my way back to India and China, I visited this fortress base and told them I was recruiting for the India-China theater.

A lot of them, bored with being in one spot for so long, wanted to go to China; especially the ground crews and others not on combat duty.

They all know that before the peace comes, they will have to take a lick at the Japanese. They had heard some lurid stories about the Pacific war, most of them fairly true, others wild exaggerations. Their first dread of living in bamboo bashes, or huts, was quieted when they were told these huts were fairly rain proof and cool.

Many of the men said they would like a little heat for a while.

One hears the men here complain that they no longer make news in their home papers.

"Nobody cares about heavy bombing any more," said one of them. "The guys over on the beach are getting all the glory." That means Normandy.

In the "old days", six months to a year ago, heavy losses resulted from bombing missions, but now most planes come home and casualties have been dropping. But the going still is tough in spots. The air over Berlin, Munich and the Ruhr is especially rugged.

At a recent briefing for a Munich raid there was a unified groan when the target was announced for the group headed by Col. Dale O. Smith of Reno, Nev. He's the admiration of his men as he squeezes into a pilot's seat, even in a bomber. He's 6 feet 7 inches tall.

"That's a six-egg mission," one officer said.

"I've been to Munich so many times," said Lt. J. E. Maxey of Decatur, Ga., a pilot, "that I'll get my citizenship papers this time."

Last year, combat crews had to finish a score or so of missions to get home leave. But the fighting was tough and few lived through it. Strangely enough, those who already have completed their "tour" and are awaiting transportation home, still get up at night and go through the briefings. The boys call them "sailors on leave."

The boys cherish luck tokens. One co-pilot has a silver dollar handle on his flying jacket zipper. Lt. William Pitts of Tulsa, Okla., a navigator, won't wash his flying cap or jacket, and always kissed the picture of his wife before and after a mission. She lives in Los Angeles.

"My luck has got to last three more missions," said Pitts, "then I go home."

Ground crews feel badly about not getting home. Some have been at this same field for 15 months. And combat crews finish their "home award tours" in three to four months. They're ready to carry their way on to the Pacific, but many would like "to see mom first."

The Safety Valve

Letter from Statesman Readers

APPLY GOLDEN RULE—To the Editor: I recently read an article, stating that our representative, James Mott, was advocating the deportation of all Japanese nationals after the war. Now I hope our government will not emulate Hitler and Tojo in taking reprisal on unfortunate innocent people, and sow the seed for another war. Many Japanese-Americans are fighting with our boys for freedom and security and giving a good account of themselves. My youngest son and five of my grandsons are in the armed forces. Why not deport all German, British and all other nationals whose governments at one time or another made war on us. We would do better in seeing to it that all habitual criminals and outlaws are brought to justice, instead of reprisals, for if we suffer such a carry on under the camouflage of liberty, they will do to us what the black dragon organization did to Japan, or the Nazis did to Germany. Those Germans and Japs knew as much as we did when born into this world; their schooling, education and training made about all the difference, and right here is where the reform must start. Might and force will not do it.

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman walketh but in vain." Ps. 127.1. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty." 2 Cor. 3.17. The reason that there is so little liberty in the world is because there is so little of the Spirit of the Lord in the hearts of men. Just look at those countries like Japan and Germany; where they tabooed the Spirit of the Lord; there is nothing but tyranny and oppression. Just to the extent that we will cherish the Spirit of the Lord in our dealings with our fellowman (applying the golden rule), just to that extent will liberty return to us and the world.

A. P. Kirsch.

Dr. Fu may be only the Henry Wallace of China, an idealist lacking in political power; but the fact that he is honest in his admissions of China's deficiencies and forthright in his prescription of political cures and economic aims is encouraging.

It gives basis for hope that the Koumintang leadership will complete the reforms projected by Sun Yat-sen and complete the modernization of China without a period of anarchy and civil strife.

Education by the method of movie shows and sightseeing will not add to an individual's ability to think a fraction as much as working out one single difficult problem in arithmetic.

"Learn by doing" was what the philosopher James taught. It should be "Learn by thinking and doing."

This is the real bottom basis of what has been wrong. I believe, not only with education but all our moves, our common popular viewpoint.

By following intuitional methods and habits, we could become a nation of morons at the mercy of leaders who alone are allowed to think or who are morons themselves, guided as Hitler by his instincts.

I think that trend has been broken. In the past few months, nearly every newspaper has carried daily accounts of juvenile delinquency meetings guided away from the intuitional theories and toward common sense.

School boards, Parent Teachers associations, commentators (though not yet the politicians, for some reason I have not yet discerned) are talking and working toward the same goal. Even the recent primaries suggested people are thinking in politics.

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