The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Analysis of Bond Purchases

Returns are in for the fifth war loan sales in Oregon. The total is $187,761,500, which is 150 per cent of the state quota—not bad. The largest volume of buying was in the two per cent coupon 10-year bonds, the amount being $67,546,000. Next in volume was the much-stressed series E bonds, $44,628,500.

The group breakdown offers some interesting figures. The total for long-term coupon bonds, which really represent firm financing, was $72,294,000. The total for the short-term notes and certificates (maximum term three years)was $63,523,000. The total for the series E, F and G bonds, which while having a 10- or 12-year maturity carry an option for cashing any time after 30 days, was $51,622,700. If we assume that one-half of the series E, F and G bonds are cashed within five years, then only about one-half of the total sales in the fifth war loan are for the term of 10 years or longer.

The government has relied quite largely on this type of short-term financing. It draws out a lot of money, but the job doesn't last very long. The more short-term bonds are sold the more refunding must be done when they mature. As long as there is a ready market the government is ahead because the short-term paper draws the lowest rate of interest. It is usually regarded as unhealthy even for governments to put too great reliance on short-term financing because any constriction in the money market makes the refinancing difficult. When the heavy war expenditure is ended it is probable that then the treasury will put more effort in on sale of long-term bonds, using the banks for the placing of short-term notes and certificates.

The ready response of the people in the flotation of these huge war loans shows their loyalty and their confidence in the stability of our federal government. It becomes then a matter of faith with these purchasers to keep our treasury in solvent condition and not to inflate our currency so it becomes almost worthless.

Master Race

While the assault by negro soldiers on Italian prisoners at Fort Lawton is not to be condoned, the incident points up the impression that Italian war prisoners are being coddled. The excuse that they were led into war against their will by Mussolini is weak, because the Italian people put up with Mussolini for years and enjoyed what glory he may have claimed for them. Italy made its choice to line up with Germany, and that without any evidence of internal opposition. Italian prisoners should be treated as prisoners of war, not as tourists who merely missed the excursion steamer.

We can't blame the negroes who have seen both Italian and German prisoners fed at table while they have been told to go round to the kitchen door for handouts at southern junctions, feel the color discrimination keenly. And we can applaud the attitude of the negro who waded through the water from his landing barge on the French Riviera, waving his sword over his head and shouting "Okeh master race; here come some guys from Missouri." We need to get the master race notion knocked out of their heads.

Editorial Comment

A SNAFFLE FOR CURRENCY

Year in and year out, the farmers of the United States produce about the same amount of crops. A flood here, a drouth there, a frost elsewhere has very little effect on the total volume. Which is a fortunate circumstance.

But the price which the farmers get for that constant crop volume varies widely, and that is a most unfortunate circumstance, unfortunate for the farmer, and unfortunate for the whole country, because prosperity gallops up and down with the swing of farm prices.

Farmers and their economist advisers have a cure for this silly habit of alternate want and waste in the midst of plenty. They want the nation to establish a commodity dollar. Instead of relating values to gold, which we cannot eat, or make into clothes, they propose to relate the price of gold and silver to commodities, and have a managed currency which does away with the pendulum swings of business.

The plan has been well summarized in a booklet, "Managed Currency," by George Francis Ogilvie of Elko, Nevada. Mr. Ogilvie is president of the Farm Bureau of Nevada, is director of the American farm Bureau, and director of the Farm Credit administration.

To the many discussions of a managed currency which have appeared from time to time, Cattleman-Banker-Farm Leader Ogilvie has added something specific—a formula by which currency can be managed. —Pacific Rural Press.

WE BEGIN TO RECONVERT

This newspaper has fought every effort to give the civilians comforts and luxuries if there appeared to be the remotest chance of interference with the war effort, but we welcome Donald Nelson's order of Monday night for resuming production of several hundred civilian manufactured items, if as and when labor, machinery and materials become available.

The military people have fought against this order, though it carries full safeguards. Military production will still have the right of way. However, many military items are accumulated for months ahead. Enormous surpluses have been created and will seem scandalous when the war suddenly ends some day. This is inevitable, but there is no sense aggravating the condition further.

Nelson's order does not contemplate reduction of military output to anywhere near a dangerous level at any point. It does contemplate using labor, machinery and materials that would otherwise be unused. The army people preferred that men and machines be left idle where their output could not be used for the war, though these could be reconverted to military use on rather short notice in the now rather improbable event of the war taking a dangerous turn.

A modest beginning in reconversion will help ease civilian shortages that could otherwise interfere with efficient prosecution of the war. It will prevent workers becoming idle and thereby becoming a charge on unemployment compensation funds that are sure to be urgently needed later.

Nelson has had a hard battle and he is entitled to a lot of credit for vigorously championing a thoroughly sound position. —Baker Democrat-Herald

Dewey on Dumbarton Oaks

The rejoinder of Secretary Hull to the criticism of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of the impending conference at Dumbarton Oaks in Georgetown shows the advantage which the administration has in the present political campaign. Governor Dewey jumped on the conference of the four big nations: Russia, China, Great Britain and the United States, as evidence of power politics, asserting that such a quartet of nations would not be accepted by the smaller powers. Secretary Hull replied that Dewey's fears were "utterly and completely unfounded." He declared the coming conference was exploratory only and would be followed by a general conference of nations to consider problems of peace.

The incident illustrates how the administration can use its inside position to its own political advantage. When a situation is nebulous, as the plan of peace organization surely is, the president or the secretary of state or some other high-placed official can reply to criticism by denying its basis. In this instance Gov. Dewey is left cut off at the pockets.

As a matter of fact the Dewey criticism came as something of a surprise. Just last year at the Mackinac island conference Gov. Dewey came out for an alliance of Great Britain and the United States, later admitting Russia into the partnership. Now he picks on the rumor that these three with China added are to set up shop to run world affairs, and denounces such a plan.

It might be better if Gov. Dewey in the speeches he has announced for his campaign would outline definitely what his own proposals are in this important field. Reliance on "forces" (as the republican platform vaguely puts it) is hardly satisfying. But Dewey was smart in picking John Foster Dulles as his personal representative in conferences with Secretary Hull on the subject of world order. Dulles is one of the best-informed men in the country on international questions. He will make no blunders due to ignorance.

Defection of the Generals

Those who recall the movies of the surrender of Stalingrad will remember proud, erect, bemonocled Field Marshall Friedrich von Paulus, the German commander. After a year and more of captivity he has published a letter in Pravda saying that for Germany "The war is lost through the fault of Hitler and continuance by the Germans is senseless bloodshed." He calls on Germans to remove Hitler and set up a new government to make peace and create conditions under which Germany can survive.

The army officers (those who are captured) are clearly making Hitler the scapegoat, but this may be said in Hitler's behalf, that in the early stages of Germany's march to power his decisions overruling the recommendations of the army officers proved correct. According to report they discouraged him in many moves, but his audacity was better than their caution. Perhaps he followed the advice of his generals and admirals in 1940 and refrained from invading Britain, which cost him his great chance. Of course his great blunder was when he opened the second front by invading Russia, violating his own preachment. Yet how close he came even there to capturing Moscow and Stalingrad.

The reproaches of the German generals against Hitler are belated. They never did like the Austrian upstart, yet they trailed along with him, and floated in glory as long as they won the battles.

The German supply of newsprint has been cut again. No matter. All they need is enough to print what the comment of surrendering nazi soldiers everywhere: "Hitler ist kaput."

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Within five days of General Eisenhower's dramatic call to his troops in France to seize a "fleeting but definite opportunity" to achieve a major victory over nazi foes, they have responded gallantly.

They were able to trap one segment of a powerful nazi army in the allied slaughter pen in Normandy, enfold escaping elements in bigger and better traps, bring Paris within sight of their forward patrols and cast doubt upon enemy ability to reach or hold the Seine line.

Front line dispatches paint a gruesome picture of besieged and chaotic German forces in the shrunken pocket writhing in death agonies under the converging fire of allied cannon. A significant allied black-out covers news as to the whereabouts of armored elements in the Paris vicinity or slicing in anew between the harried foe and the Seine; but German reports are revealing. They tell of triple 3rd army spearheads driving northeastward on the flank of the nazi retreat to the Seine, after they had already cut the enemy off from Paris, forced him into flight toward Rouen on the wide lower river.

Eisenhower's massive power in air and on the ground has virtually decimated the main German army in France in five days. It has definitely been torn to pieces beyond effective counter actions, and a major victory is already won, although its full fruits cannot yet be calculated. They well may include not only the immediate liberation of Paris, but early collapse of the Seine barrier to permit a fast advance into the channel coastal area beyond which German robot bombs are launched on England.

There has been no information from any source as to German dispositions east of the Seine. Reinforcements intended for the Normandy front may have been halted along the upper reaches of the stream below Paris. If not, the slanting of the German retreat toward Rouen down stream would mean that a wide stretch of the river closer to Paris is already open to allied crossing to out-flank that front all the way to the sea or even outflank other river lines east of it.

Another angle on the reported deflection of the German retreat route to the northeast is the added implication it gives of nazi evacuation of the city. There would be no conceivable military ground for holding it if the Seine line below was not also strongly held. It could be too easily surrounded and cut off to warrant cooping up some thousands of German troops there.

"Moonlight Sinatra"

The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY

"A GUIDE TO NAVAL STRATEGY," by Bernard Brodie (Princeton; $2.75).

"The doctrine that only the airplane can achieve victory," writes Bernard Brodie, "or that the airplane can do everything the warship can do and do it better is a pure form of monomania." This was intended by Mr. Brodie as an answer to the Seversky clique, and oddly enough, has been accepted as just that in high naval quarters. Mr. Brodie is in the naval reserve now, but when he wrote the first edition of "A Layman's Guide to Naval Strategy" he was a civilian. Yet he and his book became one of the major influences which, eventually, caused the services and the public to see that all the arms of all the services are interlocked, and that the battleship is no more obsolete than is the superfortress.

The story of Lt. Brodie's book is amusing. It was first published in 1942, when a man who doubted the all-sufficiency of the plane was considered in some quarters to be a dodo out of the sailing ship days. The book was intended for civilians, and one of its tenets was that there is nothing mysterious about naval strategy, the principles of which are to be had by "an intelligent reading of military history."

But somehow Lt. Brodie's book caught on in the services. It is now completely rewritten; this is its eighth printing, and its sale has reached 56,000—which is almost fabulous for a book of its sort in two years. Nor is the interest it has aroused due to the fact that people read it as a naval history of the current war. As edition after edition was printed, Lt. Brodie did include more and more illustrations from the war, until now the book is actually a sketchy naval history of World War II.

And finally Lt. Brodie's book (written by a civilian) reached the brass hats and gold braid in Washington. They thought it was wonderful, and said so. They allowed its use in Navy training courses, and some of them took issue with its title, successfully. The word "layman" was eliminated at the suggestion of the late Vice Admiral William Ledyard Rodgers—it would not be quite cricket to have naval officers studying their job in a book called a "layman's guide."

Leon Blum and History

By Royce Brier in San Francisco Chronicle

This man was a Jew. He was a socialist. He was one of the great men of our time, if courage and humanitarianism in high place, though manifested in a lost cause, be greatness. If greatness be only Caesarism, that is another matter. The man never conquered anybody.

Today he is almost forgotten. The time will come when he will be remembered, but the time is not yet. He tried to do certain things in another world, and he failed. The other world was too strong for him. It crushed him. His own people turned on him. All the traitors, all the cowards, all the treacherous, and millions of good but despairing countrymen blamed him for their woes, and vilified him and gladly saw him in the hands of the enemy. So did the selfsame countrymen of Joan long ago turn on her, and betray her.

This man was Leon Blum, once Premier of France. He is mentioned as in the past because he may be dead. There is a roundabout story in the news that he is dead. The story, which comes from Moscow, runs about like this. A correspondent for "Red Star" interviewed two engineers from Lublin, southern Poland, recently captured by the Russians. They told him the Germans formerly had a big Jewish murder camp nearby. They said they saw an old man (he would be 72) carrying planks in the camp, that he was pointed out as Blum, that he admitted his identity, and that they talked with him. They asked him why he did not try to save himself when France fell, and he replied, "I decided to share the fate of my people."

You see the story has a vague background. It contains more of the element of legend than of authentic news. It may not be true at all, and Leon Blum may be alive and reasonably comfortable in body, in German detention. It seems incredible the Germans would have a former premier of France carrying planks in a camp, even a Jew. But the incredible happens.

Perhaps it doesn't make much difference. Leon Blum is old and broken if alive, and he will not be vindicated in a few years, maybe not in this generation. He was buried in the rubble of history, and even when he defied his captors, when he put fear in their hearts though they had him in chains, nobody paid much attention.

Leon Blum in his youth was just a writer, a small politician and labor leader. He was one of those curious French socialists where every man is his own socialist party. He was merely against the old order, the two hundred families, and for the oppressed and the poor, a very respectable French attitude of two centuries. When he began to grow in power, because of his intellect, his integrity, his rationality and good will, he found himself in a world in which the old order was viciously slashing at intellect, integrity, rationality and good will, not only in France but all over Europe.

He would not be outfaced by this challenge. He wisely saw Europe divided into two camps, and he chose his side and would not weasel. He was a man aware of his time. From being a mere party leader, he became a great man and a symbol of something which, as we know, was to come to very black days. In June, 1936, hundreds of thousands of Parisians marched up Champs Elysees thundering, "Blum! Blum! Blum!"

You see, France was in trouble. The old order was stiff-necked and callous, as it had been long before. The radicals were vicious and demanding, as they had been long before. Leon Blum was neither of these. He was that French pitcher which went to the wall once too often: a compromise. His government was called, as a catch-phrase, the Popular Front, a coalition. This was 1936, those prodigal forces of history, not new, but emerging and converging out of the deep past, were on the march, and the crisis was at hand.

Premier Blum tried to talk and coerce the rich and the powerful into a little common sense, and they wouldn't listen to him. He tried to talk and coerce the radicals into orderly ways, and they wouldn't listen to him. He refused to shoot down demonstrators, as had been done the year before, and the old order hated him for it. He put through needed social legislation, and the radicals betrayed him by making a passive, no-work revolution. He couldn't intervene in Spain without disaster, unless England did, and the radicals never forgave him for that. They hated him, too.

So he fell after one year. There for a year they had stood, one in Paris, one in Berlin, one standing for reason and civilization, the other standing for force and tyranny. France would have none of its own. France would have deepening confusion. The next year, 1938, he went in again and lasted one month. That year force and tyranny were even stronger, and reason and civilization weaker, and France's confusion deeper.

Only in France? Ah, no—everywhere, all over the world, but especially in Europe the men of Blum's hope and heart were going down. Especially in Europe the wolf pack was running. So they said—and they say yet—it was all Blum's fault, had it not been for his kind the sheep would themselves have been wolves, and there would have been no confusion. That was what France itself said, cringing before the conqueror, and they dragged him to trial at Riom, and he stood there, alone and without a friend, and called them a generation of vipers, and the trial crumbled, because that was what they were.

He was not a wolf, but he was not afraid of evil in its most massive form. It took strong, shrewd men finally to stop the wolf pack. This is another time. Maybe he would be no good for this time, as he was surely futile in his own. Futile? Well, we will see. He stood for a good world in a bad world, and the bad world destroyed him. That has happened before. It takes a little time to get the straight of it, to learn who were the men who dealt with wrong and prospered slyly by it, and who were the men who fought for right, and went down to silence and to darkness for it.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler

"Tell him you want to phone for some ice cream—that'll tear him loose!"

Kenneth L. Dixon ...AT THE FRONT

15-Year-Old Johnny Fuentes Is Fighting Little Frenchman

By KENNETH DIXON

WITH THE AEF IN THE MEDITERANNEAN THEATRE, Aug. 13—(Delayed)—(AP)—Fifteen-year-old "Private" Johnny Fuentes is a fighting little Frenchman. He's settling the score for his dad and wants to help liberate his homeland.

He is a tiny, smiling, tough guy who weighs 97 pounds, speaks six languages and solemnly says his next of kin is his first sergeant in the United States army.

The Stars and Stripes staff stumbled across Johnny, just as he was coming out of the hospital after his latest wounds had healed, and this is the story they told of the youngest professional soldier in Uncle Sam's fighting forces:

Johnny is a native of Paris. His mother died years ago. His father, a Parisian artist, was killed in the Tunisian campaign fighting with the Free French forces. Since he joined the Yanks, Johnny has served in three campaigns. He has earned the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf clusters, the Good Conduct medal, the Campaign ribbon with three bronze stars, and the Combat Infantryman's Star.

His salary comes from his side-kicks, who pass the hat every payday. And if Johnny has killed any Germans that month they pay him a little more as reward.

Through the intervention of the division chaplain, Johnny joined the Yanks originally as a mascot near Casablanca in December, 1942. He promptly volunteered as an "ammunition lugger for a mortar." Despite his skinny frame, he "played around" with a carbine in his spare time.

That playing around netted three Germans captured near Mateur and two others killed at Bizerte.

He went to Sicily with another division, carried ammo and hunted Germans, but "I guess they must have heard of me because they kept out of my way."

He already had his Purple Heart when he shipped for Anzio with his outfit, but up on the beachhead "I got it again. Some shrapnel hit me in the leg." They gave him the Oak Leaf cluster for that, and "sent me around to a lot of different hospitals."

When he left the last hospital, and went through the replacement depot, Johnny finally got in a truck with other replacements. He headed up, hoping to find his old company. "I guess I'm a pretty good soldier," he said, as he grabbed his muskette bag and got set for the ride forward.

"You know I speak six languages—French, Italian, Spanish, English, Arabic and Portuguese. Everything will be all right, if my papers only catch up with me. They have been following me around from one hospital to another. I'm worried because I've heard stories about guys who didn't get their papers back until after the war."

The the truck started up, and "Private" Johnny Fuentes, 97 pounds of Free Frenchman fighting for Uncle Sam, headed back to the war. But there seemed to be something else that needed to be said. Suddenly he thought of it:

"I hope I can get some more Germans" he shouted.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

subsidized by big business interests, which knew where they were well spending their money."

One trouble was that in France advertising was never so highly developed as in the United States and Great Britain. The newspapers depended more on revenue from circulation, but the people would not pay more than a few centimes for a paper. So the papers were more or less forced into "prostitution" to survive.

Right here I might well interject a comment on the comparison with American papers. Our papers are under fire from critics who claim that advertisers dictate or influence their editorial policies. Yet because of advertising revenues American papers are financially strong and so able to sustain independent editorial policies. When this criticism is made of American papers all that is necessary is to cite the comparison with the French press to silence the critics.)

In France the Havas news-gathering agency was likewise untrustworthy. It has a monopoly on news gathering and foreign news services had to depend on it for French news. One of the great battles put on by Kent Cooper, now general manager of the Associated Press, was to break the dependence on Havas and other foreign news services and expand AP's independent news-collecting services in other countries.

When the Germans occupied Paris some of the newspapers moved to unoccupied France and continued publication; others suspended; others continued publication by conforming to Nazi standards.

The opportunity is at hand for what Mr. James calls "a job of housecleaning." French papers were not without some merits. They were well printed; articles were of good literary quality; the illustrated papers were excellent. The needed reform is in the souls of the editors. There should be free access to news, which Kent Cooper is now demanding of all countries. The news services and the newspaper staffs should be incorruptible. Government should keep its hands off, and so should business. To quote Mr. James again:

"Frenchmen in the new France ought to be willing to pay for their papers enough to permit them to function as honest papers and then they ought to insist on that."

The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

LOSS IS GREAT

To the Editor: It is with sincere regret we read in the Statesman of the death of Roger Kellogg. He was one of the finest young men in this country. Courteous, sincere and kind; there are too few like him, and his loss is great; not only to his own people, but to all others with whom he came in contact.

Mrs. Mattie Allen,
Portland.

Food Prices Rise Again in Portland

PORTLAND, Aug. 18—(AP)—Food prices are up again—thanks chiefly to a 25 per cent spurt in the cost of eggs.

The bureau of labor statistics reported an increase of 1.2 per cent in food prices here during the month ending July 15. The average level, however, is still 5 per cent short of the May, 1943, peak.

Food costs have climbed 52.1 per cent in this city since the outbreak of the European war.

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