

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Attack Transports

Given the most urgent rating for labor is the job of constructing and completing attack transports. The Kaiser yards in Portland have a certain number of these special-type vessels to build this fall, and they are given the finishing touches by the Astoria Marine & Construction company at Astoria. To counter withdrawals from employment in Portland shipyards the Kaiser interests are busy recruiting workers in nearly all parts of the country except those in the same tight situation as Portland. Their campaign is said to be bringing results and the population at Vanport which took quite a slump during the summer is said to have stabilized at around 25,000. Employment offices are trying to recruit within the area enough workers to give Astoria plenty of men for giving those boats the final touches by way of preparation.

An interesting feature of this spurt in shipbuilding effort is the decision of Kaiser's to go upstream to The Dalles for a portion of their sub-assembly work. Hitherto nothing has been farmed out to towns outside of Portland-Vancouver except parts. At the new plant at The Dalles substantial portions of the ships will be constructed and barged downriver. The idea is to decentralize the manufacture, taking the job to the men rather than to bring the men to the job. Boeing started this a year ago, when its Seattle manpower situation grew very tight. It established sub-plants at Chehalis and Everett. On ship work Astoria has been used for some time for final fitting before delivery.

One doesn't need a guidebook to conclude that these attack transports are specially designed for action in the Pacific. Our attack is now well launched on the continent of Europe, with ample shipping for its continued supply. Remaining though are the big jobs of effecting landings in the Philippines, in China and on Japan's home islands. Presumably these boats are intended for use in these campaigns.

The speeding up of this production shows that the high command is determined to press rapidly for victory in the Pacific. Only Palau, the Bonin islands and the Volcano islands remain as stepping stones to Japan's inner line of defense along the Philippines and Formosa and the China coast. Probably at the present time our military and naval forces are being aligned for the next drives. While they appear pointed at the Philippines—MacArthur toward Mindanao and Nimitz toward Luzon—it is possible of course that a frontal attack on Honshu itself is intended.

The rapidly moving events in Europe have overshadowed the occurrences in the Pacific which have not been specially striking since the capture of Saipan and Guam. From Gen. MacArthur's headquarters comes word however that the reconquest of New Guinea has virtually been concluded. The Japs who remain are doomed to jungle existence or death, cut off as they are from supply from the home lands. Allied airplanes and submarines keep gnawing away at Japan's lifeline by continued sinkings of Jap shipping. This steady attrition cannot help being effective in reducing Japan's strength in its remaining outposts as well as serving to deprive the home lands of essentials for war.

It will be well to keep one eye out on the Pacific. The high command may not be waiting for the curtain to come down on the last act in Europe before staging the great show in the orient. Our forces are now sufficient to keep going a substantial two-ring military circus. Japan will not have long to wait for its hour of doom to strike.

Editorial Comment

Romania Wants Transylvania

Almost before Romania has detached herself from the Axis, the "Romanian patriots" are hoping to get Transylvania back from Hungary. Perhaps the Romanian threat will make Hungary scramble to get free from German entanglements. The situation is most important as an illustration of the problems we shall face in Europe after we get to Berlin.

In this country we have only a faint idea of how the races and nations of Europe hate each other. At the end of the last war the Balkans were a mad scramble, with all the little governments trotting out their pet historians and ethnologists to prove their claims to territory. For instance: Romanians are a Latin people who claim to have sprung from the intermarriage of Caesar's legions with blond Dacian women, but they are Greek Catholics.

Hungarians are Magyars, a proud race, mostly Roman Catholic.

Bulgars are Slavs, mostly, and Greek Orthodox but they have a heavy infusion of Turks and Moslems.

Jugo-slavs are Slavs, but they split into Serbian Greek Catholics and Croatian and Dalmatian Roman Catholics who hate each other and join in despising Romanians and Italians.

In some degree you can trace these "antagonisms" in every part of Europe even to Belgium where Flemings do not like Walloons or French Belgians.

Last time, Romania was on the winning side, and the beautiful Queen Marie was exercising her charms, and with old man Jorga spouting history and ethnology, Romania walked off with Transylvania which had been Hungarian for nearly two centuries, a large chunk of Russian Bessarabia, and most of the Banat from Jugo-slavia and a sizable hunk of Bulgaria. What Romanian politicians did to their "minority" populations wasn't pretty.

There can be no real peace in Europe until some distinction is made between "governments" and people. Most Romanians, Hungarians, Bulgars, Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, are just ordinary folk who don't really want to hate anybody. They have been victimized for centuries by the politicians and overlords who have made a fat thing out of racial and religious hatred and superstition.

Tip for peace-makers: Throw some of the "patriots" out the window and bring in some of the people.—Eugene Register-Guard.

Each state and territory is soon to send a representative to Washington, D.C., to notify Pres. Roosevelt that he has been nominated for a fourth term, says news item. Bet he'll be surprised.

—Mt. Vernon (Wash.) Argus.

War Sacrifice?

The Dallas Itemizer-Observer, noting with regret the fact that Polk county placed lowest among counties in the state in the purchase of E bonds during the recent Fifth War Loan campaign, uses the occasion to speak plainly to its constituency respecting its obligation. No one would imply that our neighbors in Polk county are any less patriotic than in other counties, and after all not every county can rate first, and certainly Marion county did not either, but still there is the tendency, as the Dallas paper observes, to fail to take responsibilities personally, to do in a modest way what should be done in a larger manner.

Here is some of Editor Richardson's plain talk to his readers, which is worth reprinting because its truth applies to Americans everywhere:

The plain truth is that you and I and everyone have lived better during this war than we ever lived before. We haven't seen suffering in our homes that was due to war shortages; we have been deprived of very little which is necessary to sane, happy and normal life. We have griped about gas and tire restrictions and lack of opportunity to do some things, but actually we have been denied very little. We have had more real dollars and cents prosperity than we ever experienced before or may ever experience again.

As you ponder these things; as you look at the faces of mothers of fighting men; as you meet on the street some boy you once knew as a happy, mischievous, lovable neighbor kid, now aged by the rigors of war, can you justify yourself thus far?

The horizon around our fox holes will be widened appreciably when we can.

The war is not over; the effort on the home front is not over. There will be bond drives and war chest and Red Cross appeals. These will give everyone an opportunity to prove his loyalty and his generosity and his willingness to share in the obligations the war imposes on all citizens. When people really stretch themselves they have a personal satisfaction that fully justifies the sacrifices.

Umatilla's Courthouse

Umatilla county which has a court house that resembles Marion's is being outgrown and a grave fire risk, may vote on a proposal for a special tax levy to run for several years to accumulate funds for a new court house. It was a case brought up from Umatilla county a few years ago that gave the supreme court the opportunity of interpreting the constitution to the effect that no debt can be incurred for courthouse purposes or bonds issued. So unless a county happens to have a lot of money in the kitty which is not earmarked (which is rarely the case if our budget law is observed) about the only way to get a needed courthouse is to make a special levy. Marion county has adopted a courthouse proposal, but so far no special tax levy is authorized or asked. Accruals under the six per cent limitation will be held in a special fund, though it will take about ten years to accumulate enough to pay for a new courthouse. Maybe if we get impatient we can vote a special levy as Umatilla county is considering doing at the next election.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Official allied reports draw a dark picture for the Nazi foe in the valley of the Seine to the north and that of the Rhone to the south; but they are significantly silent as to the situation in between the two invasion fronts in east central France.

In the south a sudden eruption by Patch's troops into the central Rhone valley north of Montelimar has trapped the bulk of German troops racing from the Rhone delta area for escape. The site is the narrowest sector of the Rhone valley, flanked by escarpments. The site is the narrowest sector of the Rhone valley, flanked by the foothills of the Alps to the east and the central mountain base of France to the west. All traffic from the Mediterranean coast up the Rhone valley funnels through the Montelimar-Vale bottleneck, a strip some 20 miles long and less than half that wide through which all rail and road connections squeeze their way north. French patriot forces dominate the western hills and the French and American troops hold all the high ground to the east. Allied air armadas are reported concentrating on German troops endeavoring to fight their way out of the trap above Montelimar.

In the north Eisenhower's armies are now astride the Seine for a 200 mile stretch from near its rise to south of Rouen on the Seine estuary. A halfscore bridgeheads east of the Seine exclusive of its crossing in Paris itself are noted to indicate a huge new allied wheeling movement swinging to grind enemy forces out of all northeastern France. Southeast of Paris American armored columns are already on the battlefields of World War I.

It seems clear that with elimination of virtually all of the deadly pocket for the foe west of the Seine except close to the coast below Rouen, General Montgomery, allied field commander in the north, is shifting his American elements southeastward. Two Canadian crossings of the river close to Rouen are reported and two British bridgeheads above that. The original American Seine crossing near Mantes seems to be the left of the American part of the line now.

American forces supplemented by the second French armored division in Paris hold the rest of the Seine line to Troyes or beyond but south of that point there is an official blackout on information as to the whereabouts of roving columns between the Seine and the Loire. The present location of "Butler's task force," the Seventh army unit which took Grenoble and reached the Franco-Swiss border near Geneva several days ago, also is unrevealed. A presumable gap nearly 200 miles wide still separates the two invasion forces although actually they may be much nearer an effective junction to split enemy forces in France wide apart from the Swiss frontier to the channel.

At the moment that junction is made the question of a single overall allied command in France must arise. Eisenhower's and Patch's armies would become available for combined action to storm across the old battle fields toward the upper Rhine while British, Canadian and other allied troops on the left drove eastward between Paris and the sea.



Another Casualty List

The Literary Guidepost

By John Selby
"Cluny Brown," by Margery Sharp (Little, Brown; \$2.50)

It seems appropriate that the large group of readers which depends for literary sustenance on the Book-of-the-Month Club is to have a double choice for September. One book is a love story that is not so simple as it seems, Nevil Shute's "Pastoral." The other is Margery Sharp's "Cluny Brown," a parlor comedy which is not so funny as it seems.

Miss Sharp applies the customary English parlor comedy formula industriously to the material at hand, and with considerable success. She goes, then, a little beyond her formula. Her Cluny Brown is a girl who doesn't know her place, and a few wistful thinkers will discover a certain amount of "social significance" in the fact that Cluny and modern England combine to provide for Cluny the place she decided she must have. It is to be doubted that Miss Sharp was much concerned with social significance.

Cluny lived with her uncle, a plumber. He was that perfect combination of parlor comedy, a good and conscientious workman and a fool. He did not understand Cluny, who was anxious, on her side of the disagreement, to understand the world. Cluny was neither beautiful nor especially bright, but she had another parlor comedy combination of great value—naivete and curiosity. She took her own money and had tea at the London Ritz, and she is testing a prescription for well being found in some magazine at the time the story opens. She is spending a day in bed, eating oranges. But the phone rings, and since her uncle is away, she answers, and decides to unstop the link herself.

This leads to a minor adventure with cocktails, and to Cluny's going into service at a great house in Devon. And there follows, inevitably, one of those parlor comedy tangles in which the village chemist, a Polish writer, the heir to the baroncy, a neighbor and his dog, Sir Henry and Lady Carmel, and the servants' hall take willing part and in the end submit to anything

short of mayhem in order to straighten things out.

"Cluny Brown" is arriving a little late for summer reading, but that is what it is.

By Mossler



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News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, Aug. 28—The headlines say: "Eggs Lead Upswing in Cost of Living."

The announcement is made by Mr. Roosevelt's labor secretary, Frances Perkins, who makes no comment.

Around town, the common interpretation is that the president is getting ready to grant another general wage increase before elections, and Miss Perkins is submitting figures in advance to justify it.

Simultaneously, coming to my desk, is a letter from Elmer Kennedy, of a Colorado Typographical union, objecting to my conclusion that labor gets its wage advances from business profits, and, therefore, is wrong in advocating increasing business taxation which will limit its opportunity for future wage advances.

He says (and all labor looks at it this way, through the wrong end of the spyglass) wages paid by business are considered expense, the same as taxes, cost of materials, etc. and profits are what is left after the expenses are paid.

Behind these two events lies the whole story of the unwise, if not suicidal course of current labor and political leadership on wages, taxes and profits. I think this can be demonstrated plainly and simply so all who lend an attentive eye and half a thought can see it.

Every time a price goes up, all wages automatically decline to the same extent. Every cent more you pay for eggs, bread, fresh vegetables, fruit, etc., is a cent reduction in your pay.

But does Miss Perkins, the labor secretary, protest? Do labor

leaders fight the increasing of prices?

Not at all. Oppositely, they seek out price increases, adjust their statistics so as to stress price increase, in order to claim more wages.

They do not have the consumers' interest in this basic matter, although they are consumers. They strive always to get ahead of the game with demands for wage increases, but are always behind it.

Indeed, they do worse than that, from their own standpoint. They advocate a wage increase which will directly cause price increases, and thus defeat themselves as consumers by their own leadership.

How is the worker better off with a 50 per cent wage increase if prices go up 100 per cent, or even 51 per cent? Such a wage increase is really a reduction.

Is this unwise, self-defeating labor leadership due to the fact that the union leaders are, after all, mainly politicians and, therefore, follow the ways of the politician rather than the true, wise, economic group interest?

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT!
Dixon Discovers Being "Liberators" Has Its Hazards

SOUTHERN FRANCE, Aug. 19 (delayed)—(AP)—It's a wonderful experience being hailed as "liberators" of towns and villages of southern France, but also it has its hazards.

During one day's speedy advance through sectors leading inland from the Riviera beachhead the only casualties I saw in our motorized column were from over-enthusiastic welcome.

Of course, there were a few temporary casualties here and there when the welcoming wine flowed freely, but those have long since come to be considered a part of any liberation—and are

nothing a good night's sleep won't cure. But this business of being bearded by fruit and bouquets is something else again. In order to understand it you must realize that delighted French patriots line the streets of all the towns and villages as the Yanks roll through. At the same time, the towns may still contain a few snipers so that it is not good policy to loiter.

The life expectancy of any such sniper, once he fires into an American column, generally is less than 10 minutes. French patriots take care of that. Nevertheless the speed of his subsequent demise doesn't help whoever he has hit, so the safest policy is to keep highbaling.

Balked at giving kisses first hand, the patriots started flinging them. Then somebody thought of flowers, so they started throwing them. Then somebody else thought maybe the doughboys were hungry, so they started tossing fruit—and that's when the casualties began.

Hunched over the wheel of our jeep, Capt. Ralph Hotchkiss of Hartdale, N.Y., and Washington, had the footstool on the floorboards when a peach flattened his goggles and momentarily stunned him. Another guy grabbed the wheel until the captain recovered.

In a jeep behind us Lt. Mitchell Tackley Maloney was busy eyeing the surrounding landscape, covered with pulchritude, when a pear popped him. An hour later one eye was black, but Tackley still was looking with the other.

Pvt. Robert Farnham of Battle Creek, Mich., driving Tackley's jeep, suddenly found his vision blocked by what seemed to be "a whole flower garden."

When he removed the bouquet it was found his injuries amounted to scratches by the thorns.

The other private was standing in the truck bed waving when the sunflower laid him low, but he threatened to shoot me when I asked him his name.

"I have come all the way from Salerno without getting my name in the paper," he said, "and if you think I am going to have people back home remembering me as the guy who got socked with the sunflower, you're crazy."

Today's Garden

By LILLIE MADSEN

This season I tried my own advice on the tomatoes, and to my surprise, they are doing super-well. Early this season, I advised, on authority of one of the State College vegetable experts, feeding the tomatoes superphosphate.

That same day I went out to look at my puny little tomato plants with considerable disgust. The thought occurred to me suddenly that I might try my own garden advice. It truly works. The tomato vines are all of four feet tall and are loaded with enormous tomatoes. Not boasting at all, I do not believe they come much better.

Shortly after they were planted out in mid-May, they were fed a small handful of the superphosphate, placed in a ring around the plant a few inches from its base. This was watered in. The plants were continuously hoed—not too deeply, but sufficiently deep to keep the soil stirred. In short order, improvement began to show. The treatment was followed every two weeks through June and July. I am really proud of my tomato plants this year.

T. C. B. sends a sample of a hollyhock leaf and wants to know what "ails it".

Ans.: Rust is the trouble. New plants should be grown for the next season. Cut off the old plants, and burn, as soon as they finish flowering. Next season start spraying the new plants as soon as they begin growing, using a 3-3-50 Bordeaux. Do not let any old leaves carry over.

The fundamental interests of labor are the same as business. If there are no profits, there can be no wage increases. If prices are allowed to run continuously up, wage increases are false marines.

Labor should crusade against prices and work for business profits. If labor leadership, by its current unwise course, destroys profits and hinders good business, there will be nothing left but government ownership through socialism or communism, and then your wage scale will be those of servants of the government and you will have unimaginative, unenergetic business conducted by government, with less work, less production, less of a country.

Remember government operation of the railroads in the last war! Look at government working conditions here today, inefficiency, waste, bureaucratic control, political pull for soft jobs, soft work but also soft pay—and no one has the right to strike against the government.

I do not wish to overstate my case, but I think, in all common sense, labor is travelling the worst possible policies for its own best ends.

Back the Attack!
Buy More Than Before

IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued from Page 1)

Under careful control and management a stream need not be permanently fished out. By restocking, by careful study of feeding possibilities for fish, and perhaps by increasing the stream flow as will be possible with the river dams it may be that fairly good fishing may be restored on the Santiam. Hardly though, will it reach the proportions of Hoover's boyhood. Or do you suppose the ex-president was indulging in a little fisherman's romancing. He's just past 70 you know, so might feel entitled to spin a few yarns about the good old days.

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A similar house bill includes a formula disadvantageous to thinly populated states, said Cordon. It defines an urban area as one with a population of 5000 instead of 10,000.

The senate bill provides a special formula for public land estates. If a state has over 5 per cent public land, new highways will be financed 60 per cent federal and 40 per cent private. Annual amount for highway building within national forests will be \$25,000,000, Cordon announced. Highways through public lands will be financed entirely by the government.

"The farm to market allocation," said Cordon, "will be particularly desirable in the northwestern states where heavy traffic and the speedup of the lumbering and logging industries, and the inability of local governments to obtain equipment and maintenance supplies have left some of these roads in precarious condition."

He said various amounts would be apportioned to Oregon as follows: federal aid roads—\$4,144,000, farm-market roads—\$3,315,000, urban roads—\$1,304,000.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28—(AP)—A three-year postwar highway construction fund being set up by congress may give Oregon over \$8,000,000 a year, Sen. Guy Cordon (R-Ore.) said today.

The senate postwar roads committee has approved a bill to establish the fund. A matching formula of the 1916 act for federal aid and farm-to-market roads is retained in the new bill.

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BONDS OVER AMERICA
In Richmond, Va.
The Boone rock, inscribed "1770, Squire Boone." It is believed that the brother of the famous Daniel marked the rock to inform his brother he had returned from the settlements.
Across the face of Europe today are markings and inscriptions, inscriptions to the Gestapo, that tell members of the Underground the whereabouts of their fellow fighters for freedom.
Back the Attack!
Buy More Than Before