

The Oregon Statesman

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

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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Parity for Wheat and Cotton

Last week came the announcement from the government that parity prices would be paid for wheat and cotton. The old law called for price support at 90 per cent of parity for wheat and 92 1/2 per cent for cotton. The effect of the recent announcement will be to raise the price of wheat about 15c a bushel, if our information is correct. The government agency asserts that the action was taken because of recent legislation requiring the government to "do everything possible" to make parity prices a reality.

As far as the growers are concerned we rejoice in their prosperity. We like to see them prosper. But the increase seems both unnecessary and, as far as the country is concerned, threatening. For by and large farmers are doing well, wheat and cotton growers especially well. Because of mechanization of wheat-raising the costs of wheat-growing have not risen as have costs of many other crops requiring more hand labor.

The fact is that parity is a false measure of participation in the fruits of production. The theory is that the price of wheat, say, should be fixed at a level which is equivalent in buying power to the levels of the base period, 1909-1914. But such have been the technological improvements in growing and harvesting of wheat that costs are relatively much less than for the base period. The effect of a parity guarantee is therefore not to maintain the wheat-grower's relative position, but to improve it as compared with all other economic groups.

While the blame is shoved onto congress, which may be correct, the timing is not without political implications right now. We recall the "gentle rain of checks" which was used to shower down on the farmers during the first term of Roosevelt. That technique has not been forgotten by those who seek now to keep him (and themselves) in office.

This increase, while it may be a temporary gain to the producers, piles up future difficulties for him because it invites sharper acreage control or deeper price drop if the surplus crop is to be disposed of in foreign markets as will ultimately be necessary. Thus, instead of helping to solve the country's agriculture problems by preventing inflation it exaggerates it by lifting domestic price levels farther above world levels.

When will we get an honest approach to the country's economic problems, and away from the temptation of politicians to settle these questions in terms of votes?

Nelson Out of WPB

Donald Nelson came back from China and now finds himself in the middle of the stream, with his horse out from under him. The form of presenting his resignation was followed, and the president has promised him another post of major importance, but as far as WPB is concerned, Nelson is out and J. A. Krug becomes permanent chairman.

If one were to take the count of the number of executives in war production alone who have been dismounted in midstream he would list a very considerable number, from Knudsen and Hillman on down to Nelson. Naturally this poses the question that if we can safely make these frequent changes in such a vitally important field as production, what about the indispensability of Mr. Big himself?

Leaving that aside, the country should not let the departure of Mr. Nelson from the war production board pass without appropriate recognition of his service to the country. He came to his job when production was a sorry mess. He did succeed in organizing it, and when he finally put Charles E. Wilson in as his chief assistant the task was soon licked. Nelson has been thoroughly honest and faithful, even if lacking in personal brilliance. That the military forces of the allies have had the tools and the weapons of war is due in no inconsiderable degree to the administration of Donald Nelson.

If our political campaign continues at the tempo of last weekend, we will need to borrow prize-fight radio men for blow-by-blow reporting.

Editorial Comment

A MILLION DOLLAR FEELING

The coming today of the first rain of the season brings with it a feeling that is very welcome. Being among those who rather enjoy stormy weather we like to see it pouring down. We like to think how the grass in the field will thrive without the trouble of applying irrigation water from the ditch. It may be true, as the ditch walker says, that an irrigation is worth three inches of rain, but the rain falls everywhere and leaves no dry spots. The rain, too, defies the work of the gophers, those underground burrowers that carry the irrigating water away so that it cannot do its proper work. Yes, the rain is much to be preferred.

This rain that is falling today also has a distinction in serving as a punctuation point. It puts a period on summer and a comma before fall and therefore must be a semi-colon; nature's semi-colon, when she catches a short breath and prepares to tell more eloquently about the changes in the season. "Get in the wood," "Put that weather stripping under the door," "Make those drainage ditches," are among the things she is saying. There is a lot more to this language nature is using. She is saying things to hunters and fishermen and woodsmen, to farmers and business men, to the cows, the chickens and the birds. She is also suggesting how nice it will be of an evening to sit before an open fire in congenial company.

This rain today and not the equinox of last week, is the real sharp, dividing line between the seasons. The first frosts are not far away. The things that will freeze had better be harvested quickly. The gorgeous fall hues in the Oregon woods will be coming along very soon.

Well, we knew it would happen. Someone has just passed by calling this a "million dollar rain." It never fails. All rains must be so labeled, but even so; even though we perforce descend from the realm of happy, poetic musing to the realm of the merely mundane, this "million dollar rain" does give us a million dollar feeling.

—Grants Pass Courier

State Department Keeps Task

The president has lodged with the department of state, where the subject belongs, the problem of what to do with Germany after the war. This takes it out of the hands of Secretary Morgenthau's treasury department, which butted in with a detailed plan for splitting Germany and stripping it of major industries. The problem is one not to be decided by the United States alone, but by the United Nations, with our state department doing spadework in formulating American views. This again is a victory for Secretary Hull who has been jealous of any penetration of the state department's field of foreign affairs.

The publication of the Morgenthau plan proved good fodder for Goebbels' propaganda machine. It confirmed his own warnings that if Germany lost the war it would be destroyed as a nation. Even if that is the intention of the allies now is no time to disclose such a purpose. The news merely steels the Germans to fight the harder to protect their homeland. The vague terms of unconditional surrender are harsh enough without giving in detail the punishment to be invoked.

Meantime the general reactions are not favorable to the Morgenthau plan of reducing Germany to a pastoral economy. Germany may have earned such a penalty, but enforcing it would become an almost impossible undertaking short of continuous armed occupation. For that matter it will be hard, even after pulling Germany's tusks for war-making to be sure a new set will not be grown, as after the first world war; but that is a more rational undertaking than to pulverize Germany's industry. The whole dilemma points up the need for setting up a sensible organization for peace which over the decades may grow in power until it does prove effective in preventing wars.

What, No Green Caps?

Male freshmen at Oregon State, and there are a few 17-year-olds registered, will not have to wear green pate-pieces this year. Not that the edict of tradition has been altered, but the green caps are unobtainable in the stores—c'est la guerre; and once again the ill wind blows some good—at least so the freshmen think. It is presumed that now the freshmen, along with sophs and upperclassmen, will go hatless, at least that is the hope. But they will miss those green caps when it comes to hitch-hiking home for week ends. They proved a badge giving entry to many an automobile, much as a soldier's cap or a sailor's hat does now. In that event the ill wind will blow ill, but the freshmen will manage it somehow; they'll get home for another round of biscuits and honey at the home breakfast.

Grangemaster Mort Tompkins wants a farmer at the peace table. Eleanor Roosevelt wants a woman there. CIO and AFOFI will want one each. What we may get is a mass-meeting.

Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON

ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

September moved off the European war scene this weekend leaving behind it no conclusive evidence either way on whether struggle could reach a decisive stage on any front, east, west or south, before winter set in to checkmate Russian and allied hopes of a quick victory.

Both President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill reflected that in specifically refusing even to guess when or how German collapse might come. Had the Arnhem bridge across the Neder Rhine, seized, then lost with heavy British "Red Devil" casualties, been held like those over the Maas and the Waal, Rhine it is probable that neither man would have voiced his warning against over optimism.

Both know, of course, what Eisenhower is now preparing in the west. Everybody, including the nazis, knows that the directives under which he is operating call for victory at the earliest possible moment to cut allied battle losses. That sufficiently dismisses the thought that a west front stalemate has yet been reached, or that the limited present allied activity from Holland to the Swiss border is mere jockeying for position for a winter sit-down campaign.

It is anything but that in fact. It requires no inside information nor more than a layman's knowledge of the military art to be certain that Eisenhower and his Anglo-American subordinates are as eager now to force a decisive breakthrough into Germany before bad weather sets in as they were in June to make their way onto the continent via Normandy. Bad weather did not stop them then. The Arnhem disappointment, an operation that by every military criterion was 80 per cent successful, will not halt them now. It only delayed them.

There was every indication, reflected even in Nazi broadcast threats, that the double headed Russian campaign in the Carpathian passes and in Romania and now Yugoslavia, was shaking Hungary's insecure Nazi alignment foundations. Russian investment of Budapest via the Hungarian plain could touch off a blow-up of the last Hitler satellite, it might come very soon. Russian columns are not much over 100 miles from Budapest at two or more points to the northeast, southeast and south.

A junction of Russian northern and southern forces debauching into the Hungarian plain would probably trap substantial Nazi and Hungarian forces still holding the Carpathian-Transylvanian Alps hook far in rear of Red western spearhead columns. It would also quickly release heavy Russian forces now deployed around that long and difficult mountain perimeter for use elsewhere.

Russian mopping-up operations in the Baltic states have the same potential. They are rapidly nearing completion to a point where the mass of Russian northern armies, including those once tied down against Finland, would be free to turn elsewhere. Russian and allied forces are poised virtually equidistant from Berlin, just over 300 air-line miles, on the Neder Rhine in the west and at Pultsk, north of Warsaw, and already across the Narw in the east.

Of the two attacks that from the east is probably more immediately filled with extreme danger for the foe. That is where the greatest German army mass still is concentrated.



"Radio City"

The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY

With the cartoonists— It is always a little difficult to write about cartoon books, because there is nothing to say about a cartoon except whether it is good or bad. People seldom agree on that matter, either.

A great many people agree that Sgt. George Baker's Sad Sack is pretty funny. Yank has published all Baker's army cartoons, and now 115 of them are being republished in a book aimed straight at the heart of the Christmas market, which it quite probably will pierce.

Baker's boy is a private, the perennial private. It is said that Yank's readers have petitioned Baker to promote the poor guy, and that Baker has most intelligently refused. Sad Sack clubs have sprung up, bombers wear the name on their nose, as do tanks, and the artist has been shot all over the world by his magazine so that the Sack may share the experiences of all his kind. The Sack's creator has had some experiences of his own since he left high school, but the most productive one was his service in the Disney organization in Hollywood, which began in 1937 and ended in June of 1941, when Baker was inducted into the army. He spent his evenings, after induction, drawing pictures of a bewildered civilian trying very hard to make himself into a soldier, and when Yank was formed, Baker and his GI were absorbed at once. The new book is called "The Sad Sack," which is very logical. (Simon & Schuster \$2).

Probably it is a matter of taste, but this reader also thinks Gardner Rea very funny. I like Rea because he does not lean too heavily on the phony "sophistication" that attacks so many jokesters whose subjects are largely metropolitan. (McBride; \$1).

And there is another collection, this one miscellaneous, from the Saturday Evening Post's pages. Many of the drawings are hilarious, and why wouldn't they be with people like George Price, Whitney Darrow, Ted Key and several scores besides doing the work? (Whitney; \$2).

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"For a young man in love, you certainly have an appetite!"

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—What fooled us on the Siegfried line and in Holland were the surprising results of the general mobilization Hitler undertook publicly more than a month ago.

That far back he, apparently began planning his current fight. By his desperate drain of manpower for his home stand he was able to maintain his border front after the best half of his armies in western Europe had been destroyed in France.

When our authorities ran into this unexpected show of strength, some of them threw up their hands in pessimism and started predicting no end of the war before spring.

This is the focal explanation of the perplexing fluctuation in reports from the battle line the past ten days.

Where he got so many troops is yet something of a mystery. Officers were taken out of administrative chairs. Soldiers were drawn from garrison and police duty. Even tradesmen and workers in key industries were called upon to fill home gaps left by the military going to the front.

To the vacated places of these workmen at home he forced more foreign workers. Boys 16 and younger were called to duty. The physically disqualified were fitted in.

These recruits are naturally not of the best. But some good troops were called in from the Russian front and from Denmark (which has been virtually a fighting front since the uprisings started months back). Piecing these together he was able to get a line.

But the very nature of these troops makes the current popular pessimism temuous. The line may prove to be no more formidable than a road block, to be swept away. The fighting of the next few days will give a better understanding of future prospects. The disaster to the British par-

atroopers in Holland, lamentably tragic as it was, cannot be considered militarily as important as the less advertised developments southward showing Hitler had manpower. The extent of this defense in depth could not be known definitely however, until fully probed by fighting.

This is not the first time we have been fooled. When the German line broke in Normandy there was an excellent prospect the war could be won in France by complete annihilation of their western forces. While more than half were rendered useless, Hitler was surprisingly able to preserve the military organization of those retreating armies and some of these troops now augment his last drain of home manpower.

The Nazi forces in Holland, and many stationed in Belgium were never in the French fight. These, retreating to the homeland, were able to create the Arnhem pocket in which we lost 6,200 with only 1,800 escaping. But he even appeared with an air force there when he had to have it.

We were overly optimistic also in estimating German morale. Their defenses have been spotty. At some key points of their choices they fought fanatically, but in France, after the break through, their troops indicated distaste for fighting except in the suicide squads at the channel ports, and even these troops were far less anxious than their officers.

If our estimates on any of these three points—morale, manpower and the opportunity in France—had been realized the war would be over now. If just a single one of these lively prospects had turned our way, the other two could not have saved him.

Now it all depends on who has the greatest force at this battle line or how long it will take us to get more power there. The situation is about as in Normandy after the initial landings. It can still turn either way.

Practical Religion

By Rev. John L. Knight, Jr.,
Counselor on Religion's Life,
Willamette University

All too often we look upon the success of other people as a matter of chance in their lives. We feed our own laziness by convincing ourselves that most successful people have gained their position in life because of helpful friends or unusual opportunity. Although this may be true in a few instances, the pages of biography tell a different story—a story of persistent and conscientious work. As Longfellow reminds us,

"The heights by great men reached and kept
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night."

Site on Applegate River, County Park

GRANTS PASS, Sept. 30.—(AP) A new 35-acre county park has been acquired on the Applegate river, officials said today, bringing the total of county parks to seven. The park boasts good fishing early in the year and a swimming hole.

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT!

Highway Travel
on French Roads
Has Its Dangers

WITH THE AEF IN FRANCE, Sept. 24.—(Delayed)—(AP)—A grim looking top sergeant stood in front of a company of quartermaster truck drivers, looking them over.

Behind, their trucks were lined up ready to roll.

Ahead, a long curving highway stretched into the distance.

"Men," the sergeant said crisply, "some of you may not return from this mission—we have had reports that there's a French convoy somewhere along the road."

Now when I hear the fear expressed that the Jews will buy up the government's surplus and make a lot of money on it, I think of Arkay. I suppose when he came to this country, probably from Germany, he drifted into the junk business because the "white folks" spurned it. Americans have had the habit of putting the last wave of immigration into their most menial employment; so these Jews struggled to eke out a living by collecting and selling junk. Small wonder then if through the years they have developed a knowledge of how to handle the salvage of our homes and industries. As the business expanded with the spread in use of metals they have grown with it, until now a large proportion of the vast business in junk is controlled by Jews.

Doubtless most of them are descendants of the Arkays who bought the old rubbers and iron horseshoes and "rags from the families of 'old American stock' in generations past.

Sometimes the Jew-baiters assert that Jews hold control in the field of finance. As far as America is concerned that is not true, as a study of bank officers and directors of the country's leading banks will prove. But if it were true there would be a reason for it in history similar to Jewish control of the junk business. For under the Christian teaching of the middle ages lending of money at interest was usury, and was strictly forbidden of Christians by the church. But there was need for loans by the thrifless artisan or the prince about to wage a war, so the lending was done by the Jews, who, though confined to the ghettoes, were useful as money-lenders.

Barred from many trades and occupations Jews were forced to live precariously, by their wits. With many Christian hands raised against them, their very survival became a struggle. But if Gentiles think that Jews are sharp at trading, they might recall David Harum in fiction who was pretty good at horse-trading. He was as Yankee as the old New England stock from which he sprang.

We thought the Welsh were clannish and queer and used to mimic the clatter of their speech; but they now are thoroughly Americanized. The Bohemians whose infiltration made the country life of the old families less happy, went on to invade the cities, and now their descendants are an important element in places like Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. Jews too have prospered. From the cast-off junk they have sought to participate in the American dream of social progress. But ancient prejudices and the sharpness of competition are sometimes fertile soil for the whisperings of slander of race or religion. For myself I have never forgotten Arkay, the Jew, the stranger, who bought our junk when there was none other to buy it and who traded fairly with the children of Gentile Americans.

Other dormitories for women include Frederickson hall and two former fraternity houses, now designated as Alpha Psi and Kappa halls, all used last year, and the newly acquired residence just west of Frederickson hall on South Winter.

Plans for housing Willamette university co-eds for the coming school year are now complete with the announcement that the YMCA has been obtained to house 45 women students and a house-mother for the fall and winter semesters. Necessary alterations in the Y rooms will be made between semesters and it will be ready for occupation by October 28, Robert W. Fenix, business manager, announced.

City Engineer J. Harold Davis will probably be authorized Monday night by the city council to prepare a map for PGE engineers, containing data which will be necessary before the survey can be planned.

Tentative plans call for a survey of business and residential districts in Salem and only business districts in Silverton.

To facilitate the work of the engineers cities to be surveyed subjects are required to furnish data showing street widths, traffic hazards and the type of district covered. This data discloses to experts the type of lighting best adapted to meet safety requirements.

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Now, this was only a cartoon in a recent issue of "Stars and Stripes," a cartoon which caused howls of hilarity from Marseilles to Paris. And while it exaggerates one road hazard—the different driving habits of different nationalities—it still serves to underscore the actual dangers of highway travel in France these days.

In the first place, the swiftness of the entire Seventh army campaign plus the acute supply situation has resulted in pulling out all the stops so far as the speed of military traffic is concerned. Trucks hauling supplies toward the front 24 hours a day not only have been forced to operate on a never-stop basis, but it has been found necessary also literally to double the ordinary convoy speed.

When you get a convoy of hundreds of six-by-sixes rolling better than 50 miles an hour along a highway, it constitutes a considerable menace even under the best possible conditions. And we haven't had the best possible conditions in this French campaign.

The roads have been wet and muddy constantly, with rain making even the best macadam highways slick and dangerous. In addition, the never-ending curves of the sharp and tortuous mountain trails put new skids into the slipperies.

Any doughboy will tell you that while the Americans drive on the right side of the road, the British—official or not—often drive on the left as of yore, and the French drive down the middle.

City Council Will Consider Light Survey

Definite steps are expected to be taken Monday night in the city council to set in motion the plan which will give Salem an authenticated city lighting survey under auspices of the Portland General Electric company. The project was proposed by the Salem Chamber of Commerce as a postwar development and is similar to one under which Silverton also hopes to revitalize its lighting system.

Ralph Johnson, assistant manager of the Salem office of the PGE, is handling the spadework for General Electric and also is a member of the chamber's committee, headed by Lester Barr. Johnson said Saturday the PGE is prepared at this time to make a series of municipal light surveys and said Salem had a very good opportunity of being among the first group to be studied.

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WU Housing Plans Ready

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Stevens



Diamonds

Each beautiful jewel enthroned in a handsome setting has a personality of its own. Choose yours with care and confidence from our select collection of fine stones.

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