

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1857

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

Member of the Associated Press

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this newspaper.

Rail Wrecks

When rail wrecks happen the papers tell the story which often winds up with the news that an investigation of the cause is under way. Sometimes months afterwards a report of the investigation may be given brief mention. But the public has forgotten the event and is little interested in the post-mortem. For example we have had no word as to the cause of the two wrecks on the Seattle-Portland line one of which delayed and the other wrecked the Dewey train.

The terrible wreck near Terre Haute, Ind., when more than a score of persons were killed, most of them men of the air forces, has had little subsequent publicity as to its cause. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, however, notes that the accident, which occurred when an engineer on the Miami train ran by a red signal in the fog, could not have occurred if the railroad had been equipped with the proper automatic safety device. Available is an automatic stop which stops or slows down a train running through a stop signal. This certainly ought to be installed on all lines of railroads.

When radar enables an American warship to sink Japanese ships at night, miles away, it is tragic to think that our railroads have been so tardy in installing safety devices. The fact is that most of them have to be forced on the roads by the interstate commerce commission, and then the individual roads beg for extension of time. Some of them would still be operating without airbrakes, probably, if they hadn't been required to install them.

The roads are in the money now. They ought to use part of it to modernize their plant and especially to install improved safety signals and stops. Prevention of wrecks is really cheaper than cleaning them up.

Passing the Buck

The war labor board has passed on to the president the final decision on whether the little steel wage formula should be scrapped. It says it does not have sufficient information as to the possible effects of a modification of the formula on the country's price structure. Since the question is not merely one of wages, the final decision should rest with the president who alone has converging at his own desk the data from the various departments of government, but also responsibility as to public policies. How soon the president will act is not announced. It is rather doubtful if he makes his decision known before the election.

The question is two-fold: one, the present situation as to wages and cost of living; the other is the future trend of both. We like the stand taken by Erich Johnston who recommends that no general wage increase be made at present; though he foresees the continuance of a rise in wages as the economy becomes more productive. Labor itself should profit if the line against inflation is held, because the price schedule is almost sure to take a dip when the military demand falls off.

We are in the "r" months again, only to learn that oysters this year will be "small, scarce and expensive." Little chance then for bobbed rides to the country for oyster suppers—if we had the snow.

At Bend the city jail was closed for lack of fuel; at Coquille the county jail was closed for lack of customers. War shortages seem to work two ways.

Editorial Comment

WAYNE MORSE

We believe that our congress is desperately in need of a fine type of representative government—representation which represents in the broad rather than the narrow sense; that a congressman should consider both the needs of his country and of his immediate constituency; and this if his country's welfare calls louder than his district's, he should vote for the country's welfare.

Otherwise we will have developed—and we have been developing—a very dangerous bloc system which is the absolute opposite of what is demanded of truly representative government.

The case of Wayne Morse, former member of the war labor board, recently nominated by the republicans of Oregon for the United States senate, gives rise to these thoughts.

Though claimed by the CIO, PAC, he apparently is by no means wearing the CIO's or anybody else's collar. He is friendly to labor in the over-all sense, yet he would correct by legislation the evils within organized labor that are bedeviling the rank and file of union members. He would amend the Wagner act, correct its inequities, eliminate its squeals and make it really workable. He would clean out the overlapping of governmental agencies which deal with labor and industry. He would—by law—abolish jurisdictional disputes unless labor itself quickly provides machinery for such abolition. He would reinstitute a government by law and head off the trend toward government by men.

In short, he is doing his own thinking and not letting labor or any other lobby do his thinking for him.

We need—desperately, we repeat—more of his sort.—Houston (Texas) Press.

WAR CRIMINALS

Sir Walter Layton, a British economist who generally thinks things through, is out with a proposal to send leading nazis and members of the gestapo to a "Devil's Island" for war criminals.

Conceding that this might be even worse punishment than execution to force these atrocious criminals together for life, with no leaven in the association, such a program would lack exemplary effect. The world is concerned not alone with retribution—imagination cannot devise punishment that would balance the cruelty they have inflicted—but to give dramatic proof that crime does not pay.

There are soft-hearted persons who argue that to execute Hitler and the rest of his criminal gang would be to make martyrs and sow the seed for a new crop of the same kind. That is something we will take a chance on. It did not make a martyr of Dillinger to shoot him down. Drumhead court-martial should be the rule for the chief war criminals, no matter who captures them. There should be an agreement between the allies in this effect.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Ballot Measures—V

Fifth item on the measures ballot is a bill referred by the legislature. This is designed to provide at state expense educational aid to all Oregon veterans of this world war, who have served a minimum of 90 days. The veteran may pursue his course of study "in any public or accredited private school or college in the state of Oregon." The aid provided is: \$75 for the first month, \$50 for each of the next ensuing eight months, \$35 a month for nine months in each of the ensuing three years. In short, grants are made to students for four years of nine months each. The cost of the assistance is to be met by an authorized tax levy of two-tenths of a mill. If a veteran accepts federal educational aid he is barred from taking state aid in addition.

Since this bill was passed by the legislature for reference to the people the federal "GI bill of rights" was passed which provides more liberal educational aid. Under the federal act the government will pay the tuition and regular fees of the school selected by the veteran, provide books and supplies and travel, and furnishes subsistence allowance of \$50 a month if the veteran is single or \$75 a month if he has dependents. This is far more liberal and will undoubtedly be used by most veterans.

State aid is offered up to four years, while federal aid is limited to one year of schooling for each year of service, to a maximum of four years. Also the state bill has no restriction as to age while under the federal bill aid is not offered to those who were over 25 on entering the service unless their education was interrupted or they desire a refresher course.

The numbers who would benefit under this state bill are so few that it hardly seems necessary for the state to enter this field. The "GI bill" seems entirely adequate. The Statesman recommends Vote 309 X No.

Chungking Gloomy

Brooks Atkinson, reporting to the New York Times from Chungking, says that the mood in the Chinese capital instead of freshening following foreign visits and domestic conferences is turning to: "gloomy resentment and reticence." The government seems resolute against making concessions to foreign critics and is less inclined to deal with the communists. The west had counted on China's holding together and keeping up the fight. The internal situation is so grave that the urgency of gaining a foothold on China's east coast is apparent.

Important indices of business, car loadings and electric consumption, show that business has reached a levelling off point. Comparative statistics no longer show the sharp increases over previous years. This is only natural as the productive machine reaches its peak and catches up with military demand. We can expect recessions too in the transition to peace. It may even take some years to build back to wartime peaks; but we should not go into a tailspin of panic when some minus signs replace pluses in our statistics. Skyrockets don't keep going till they hit the moon.

Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Japanese reports of a massive American carrier-based plane raid along the west coast of Formosa, within a scant 100 miles of the Chinese mainland, touched off Tokyo predictions of follow-up landing operations, although they went unconfirmed from any American source.

There seemed no reason to doubt that Formosa, a capstone of the Nipponese China Sea conquest arch, had been brought under fire for the first time by an American bomber fleet, whether the enemy estimate of 1000 planes involved is accurate or not. The figure used sufficiently shows Japanese recognition of the tremendous American air-sea power concentrated in the far Pacific now.

Unwillingness of the American task force commander to reveal the position of his fleet by breaking radio silence could account for delay in an official report on the action to Pearl Harbor headquarters. The striking fact about the incident, however, is that it represents an American advance not only across the Pacific but also virtually within sight of the Chinese coast months ahead of schedule.

In clear weather pilots of American bombers closing on Formosan targets probably would have seen the loom of islands off the China coast from their bombing altitude. They were that close to the reputed ultimate goal of the American drive through the central Pacific, apparently without tormenting the elusive Nipponese home fleet to action.

It is a fair deduction that whatever else the bombing of the whole sweep of the Ryukyu chain, stretching from the southern tip of Japan proper to Formosa, and then Formosa itself was designed to accomplish, hope of locating the main Japanese fleet and bringing it to decisive action went far to inspire the move. Planes of the cooperating commands of Admiral Nimitz and General MacArthur obviously have been probing all the way from the Sulu archipelago and the waters of Borneo in the south, through island waters in the central Philippines and now among the Ryukyus and over Formosa harbors, for that purpose. If any substantial part of enemy naval strength has been distantly sighted or its hideouts located, however, there has been no word of it in American official reports or press advices from Pacific areas.

In view of authoritative disclosure that the Pacific offensive has outpaced most optimistic allied hopes by many weeks or months, it is doubtful that the far-ranging operations in the east China sea imply any immediate move to follow through with landings. Distances are still too great for that. They seem more like diversions in force designed to pull Japanese air and sea power away from probable landing sites in the Philippines.

Among other objectives at which the roving air-sea attack in the east China theater might be aimed is the boost it would give Chinese civilian and army morale. A stiffening of Chinese resistance to the Japanese effort to slice China apart would warrant bold American ventures even if larger tactical or strategic conceptions are involved.



Indian Summer

The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY

"INVASION JOURNAL," by Richard L. Tobin (Dutton; \$2).

The finest writing about the invasion of western Europe I have seen is contained in a medium sized book by Richard L. Tobin, called "Invasion Journal." Mr. Tobin's book is a very personal one, and certainly he will not convince all his readers that all his statements are true, which is unimportant. Some people, in addition, will feel that a 60-page introduction in which such familiar staples as a convoy trip to England and English food are described once again is a little too much of a curtain-raiser. But for me, even these well-chewed ideas and well known scenes were pleasant in Mr. Tobin's remarkably fluent and controlled prose. When he at last gets down to business the effect is first rate.

"By the end of 1942," writes Mr. Tobin, whose home paper is the New York Herald Tribune, "the combined chiefs of staff had a good picture of what could happen in the west and how it could be made to happen. It was a work of imagination. It was a combined operation on a scale without precedent in the history of wars, an invasion against an enemy that had been fortified for years. It demanded special invasion ships, and boats, and amphibians, and water-proofed steel. It demanded specialized training. Above all, it demanded imagination, and in Roosevelt and Churchill it got imaginative treatment. . . . Stalin called the invasion . . . 'the most imaginative, heroic military step in all history.'"

This paragraph is the key. Mr. Tobin's narrative supports at all times his belief that what actually won the beachheads and later France was properly implemented imagination. We had, the book indicates, better material and more of it, but we had also more flexible minds—which is only another name for imagination, after all.

Mr. Tobin's important service is to align the various invasion factors in proper order and perspective. The temptation to smother the whole thing in the plentiful "color" of the operation was doubtless great. But the book is sane, balanced and clear.

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

(Distribution by King Features Syndicate, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part strictly prohibited.)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—Sparse and softly agreeable comment in congress on the postwar world formula of Dumbarton Oaks does not mean the project is being taken lightly. It is being subjected to severe study here as elsewhere. Yet there is every prospect that the unfinished proposal will be approved not only by a majority but a safe two-thirds of the senate on the following grounds:

The formula is based on the league of nations theory of running the world. Some technical changes do not alter the basic theme that a world council will investigate aggressors and impose sanctions (economic and social as well as military) to deter the pugnacious. The language has the same ring as the league covenant which directed its council to "take action deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of nations," and in article X said: "The members of the league undertake to respect and preserve against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the league. . . . The assembly may from time to time advise. . . . the consideration of international conditions whose continuance might endanger the peace of the world."

This proposal is the league plus the Kellogg-Briand pact renouncing war, the world court of justice and the disarmament conference—with really only one critical difference. This time the United States is to undertake leadership of the all-rolled-into-one world program along with Russia and Britain particularly. This leadership is to replace Anglo-French leadership of the old league in which Russia was a trivial influence. The cast changes but the goal of the play is not altered materially and the script only pointed up.

This theory of peace has become popular because of a prevailing notion that the reason the league failed was because the United States did not join its influence. Convancing the opinions of congressional parties and factions, I judge an overwhelming official bi-partisan sentiment exists behind this endeavor. There will not be much serious arguing about it unless a completed text infringes upon national rights or raises a question of our interests. It is not my purpose to take a position on the matter, only to report how it proposes to work. The incomplete agreement is like the charter of a club, a world club pledged to peace. This club is to be controlled largely by an executive committee, called "the security council."

The composition of the committee does not suggest that any one, either the U.S. or Russia will wield greater influence. Five permanent members are to be the big five united nations, but in the voting six more rotating members from smaller nations will furnish the numerical majority on whichever side they go. The all-important details of the voting have not been agreed. (Whether unanimity is necessary for action) but as the agreement now stands, the complexion of the council will depend on the hue of the smaller nations chosen for the one, two and three year terms.

This council cannot itself wage war, but can call upon the united nations to wage practically anything from social isolation of a nation to invasion. (Cost of these wars or actions are apparently to be borne by the nations furnishing the armies or taking the steps.)

The council is to be always ready for action, although no provisions for housing it are mentioned. I would think it would be established in Washington for this reason: The league was largely a European device. This is to be a world device. To choose some small neutral place such as Switzerland, or to use the old league buildings there, would subject it to the old unsatisfactory surroundings in which it was unsuccessful. Washington is the natural background for its new tone and intent.

(To be continued in a subsequent column.)

leagues and "persons not qualified to become citizens" are in keeping however with other portions of our original constitution.

We must remember the time in which the organic law was written—1857, before the Civil war, when slavery issues were agitating the whole country. The history of that period in Oregon shows that while the people did not want slavery here, neither did they want the negroes. They wanted to be a cultural island, free from the contention which was splitting the country east of the Rockies.

When the constitution was submitted to the voters for ratification two separate sections were submitted independently. One would have permitted the bringing in and holding of slaves. It was voted down by a vote of 7727 to 2645. The other prohibited any free negro or mulatto, except those residing in the state at the time of the adoption of the constitution. This was approved by a vote of 8640 to 1061. The apparent inconsistency in the two votes is explained by the fact that the people of Oregon who had left the settled portion of the country far behind wanted to be shed of its worries, both slavery and the negroes.

It may be said that this attitude has persisted. There's the sign over at the stage terminal

ropean device. This is to be a world device. To choose some small neutral place such as Switzerland, or to use the old league buildings there, would subject it to the old unsatisfactory surroundings in which it was unsuccessful. Washington is the natural background for its new tone and intent.

(To be continued in a subsequent column.)

The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

DEFENDS BRITAIN AND EMPIRE

615 North 14th Street

To the Editor:

It is of interest to notice that of all the British dailies, only the "Herald" has paid any attention to the frequent slurs of our own "dailies" on British foreign policy.

The British Empire is our ally and such propaganda is playing right into the hands of Hitler and Hirohito, which is obviously Germanic in its source and to right thinking Americans has little or no weight.

Just what would be our attitude toward the British Empire were they to concoct supposedly historic films in which America might be pictured as being in the war until the "last Russian" was killed. We would naturally resent it in no uncertain voice, yet we so often circulate films depicting the British Empire as being in this or that war until the "last Frenchman" is dead.

British foreign policy may not always have been to our liking any more than our own Negro situation is to British public opinion, yet they can proudly present Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Union of South Africa, even to what was once-German East Africa as memorials to successful colonization.

We are today determined to maintain a two-ocean navy and to build up a chain of airports



WITH THE AEP IN FRANCE, Oct. 8.—(Delayed)—(P)—A battered three-months old magazine just showed up in this rifle company command post and the doughboys now are gazing at illustrations supposed to represent front line fighting men.

It is a scene I have watched many times in Africa, Italy, and France. By now, most combat soldiers long since have given up hope that the folks at home ever will understand.

But still they make bitter remarks. And a few still hope that some day maybe the folks will know what it's like. So here is one more attempt:

Right now the commander of this company looks worse than any drunk who has slept three nights in the gutter. He is dirty, bearded and bleary-eyed, coughing badly and probably running a high temperature. His tangled and twisted hair sticks up from his head at crazy angles. He doesn't look like the officer in the magazine.

There is nothing handsome or

romantic about the sergeant who just came back from patrol. He literally stumbled down the steps to this basement under a shell-shattered house because he is punchdrunk with sleeplessness. His four-day old beard is flecked with mud and food and hairs from a wet and dirty blanket in which he wrapped himself for two hours of rest between patrols. His shaking hands spilled the coffee he tried to drink a few moments ago, drooling muddy rivers down his chin. He's a good soldier, but he looks more like a scared, cold and dirty invalid.

The private who came with him looks even worse. His body, whipped into stringy flesh, is crumpled slackly into wet and shapeless clothes. One pant leg is tucked into a combat boot. The other trails on the ground, frayed and mudcaked.

Waiting, huddled against the wall, he trembles constantly and almost uncontrollably. You can't tell whether it's from the cold or from the sound of the mortar shells that have been falling near the command post all morning.

He and the sergeant both are sick with fright and long since wrung out by fear. But in a few more minutes, they will leave the comparative safety of the command post to return to foxholes

(Continued on page 10)

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

in Salem announcing to all travelers that the city is 98 per cent white American!

The section prohibiting the entrance of negroes became null with the adoption of the 14th amendment to the national constitution in 1868 but it hung on in the constitution until its repeal in 1926.

Other provisions in the old constitution restricting rights of certain classes included the following: Suffrage was limited to "white male citizens." This section has been amended six times, and now suffrage is universal to citizens over 21 able to read and write the English language.

There was a special section denying the right of suffrage to any negro, Chinaman or mulatto. This was repealed in 1927, though invalid because of the 15th amendment to the federal constitution since 1870. Sec. 8, Art. XV read that "no Chinaman, nor a resident of the state at the adoption of this constitution, shall ever hold any real estate or mining claim, or work any mining claim therein." This is still in the constitution, but is labeled inoperative under a decision of the supreme court intimating that it is in conflict with a treaty with China.

What we see in the minds of the founding fathers was not the possible menace of the Japs whose island kingdom had been unlocked by Commodore Perry only a few years before, but the fear of "Chinamen" who were already coming to this coast taking jobs and working mining claims, and dislike of negroes. The Japanese issue did not get into our legislation until 1923 following the first World war, when the legislature passed an act directed at the Japs, forbidding aliens not eligible to become citizens from owning or leasing real property.

Those eligible for citizenship under federal laws are "free white persons" or "aliens of African nativity and persons of African descent," and under a recent statute, the Chinese. I do not have the exact text of the latter law, but presume the bar still extends to other orientals.

The prohibition has been in large degree avoided by the vesting of titles to property in the names of American-born descendants of ineligible races. This is merely a historical sketch tracing in our constitution and law the views of Oregonians on questions of race. It omits the Klan-inspired initiative of 1922 banning private schools, the issue there being religious rather than racial, and the act was later invalidated by supreme court decision. What the future expression of our people will be only time will tell. Fears and hates developing from this war may seek to raise fresh barricades against the Japanese.

Cordially
E. G. KINGWELL.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"His shaving isn't a COMPLETE waste of time—the father gets in his ears!"

Stevens

Jay Kel ORIGINALS

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

Credit If Desired

Stevens & Sons