

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Stays Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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"The Real Thing"

This looks like the real thing—the new allied attack on the 400-mile front of western Germany. After the period of waiting necessary because of bad weather and for time to bring up supplies General Eisenhower has released his six armies in simultaneous assault on the German defense positions following roughly the Rhine river from the Belfort gap to the sea.

The nature of the plan is apparent: to apply heavy pressure at all major points, to wear down the enemy's resistance, to prevent shifting of defense troops from one point to another, and then to exploit the break-through which will occur at whatever develops as the weak point of the German line. Once a gap is opened allied mobile armor will flow to encircle segments of the German armies and to riddle communications in the rear.

The prime military objectives now are doubtless the industrialized Ruhr and Saar basins, and after them Berlin. These are the geographic goals. The military goal is to cut up and destroy the German armies so Germany's power of organized resistance is wiped out.

Can the allies do the job in the remaining weeks of 1944? We think so, if only the weather stays decent. Germany hasn't the number or quality of troops to stem the allied tide. Our air force cripples the enemy supply lines and has probably cut down German war production below the necessary replacement level. Once the west wall is pierced or flanked there are no adequate defenses to do more than retard the allied advance; and when our armies get well into Germany the enemy resistance if it does not collapse is apt to be fragmentary and spotted.

It will be a real Christmas present to the world if Eisenhower and his six great armies can crack the German west wall and reach beyond the Rhine. Don't be surprised to find such a bright orange in your Christmas stocking.

Canada's "Zombies"

The 70,000 who make up Canada's conscripted home army are called "Zombies" and they are becoming quite a scandal.

Under the law the Canadians can be conscripted but they can't be shipped overseas, unless they volunteer. Thousands of Canadians have volunteered and have proved brave and able fighters; but the "Zombies," they stay at home. Target of much criticism, they will continue on home guard duty unless the government changes its policy.

But MacKenzie King, Canada's premier, is not likely to change this policy. The opposition to conscription for foreign service comes from the French-Canadians who are centered in Quebec and eastern Ontario. King, a liberal, depends on liberal Quebec for continuing in office, the more so since the prairie provinces have gone socialist. If King lost Quebec his government would fall.

One way has been schemed for getting more of the "Zombies" to volunteer for overseas duty, and that is to rule they will not be entitled to veterans' benefits unless they do serve overseas. This may pry some of them loose.

Meantime, the Canadian army overseas is calling for more men, and furnishing them is one great, big question for Canadian officials to ponder over.

On the Hungarian front the Russians followed up the capture of Jaszbereny with that of Fuzesabony. These cities seem as hard to capture as they are to spell.

Editorial Comment

SCHOOL FUND AND THE LEGISLATURE

It is one of the oddities of an Oregon election that the individuals seeking membership in one or the other house of the legislature are seldom chosen on the basis of definite commitments on prospective bills which may come before them once they are in session in Salem. General pronouncements are given and these, apparently, are ordinarily considered sufficient indication as to what may be expected from the lawmaker. The record of the candidate, if he is up for reelection is given much more weight, which is probably as it should be. In requiring no specific assurances, however, it seems to us that the electorate is passing up a qualification which should be of much importance.

Be that as it may, once the vote has been counted and the personnel of the legislature determined, the advocates of new enactments, repeals or amendments become suddenly interested in the attitude that representatives and senators may take in regard to specific issues which have lain dormant since adjournment nearly two years before. It is that time now.

Evidence of interest is already being given and it is natural that among the first issues informally presented should be those which the election itself has thrown in the legislative lap. Reference has previously been made in this paper to the amendments to permit county manager form of government, recharterment of former inmates of state institutions and loans to world war II veterans. These three would be only natural sequels to the expressed will of the people. It is logical to expect them.

Less logical is the suggestion based on the defeat of a proposed constitutional amendment, that one seeking to increase the state tax fund for public school support. After the people refused to vote the amendment, the suggestion comes that the legislature should, by statute, provide for the increase.

The suggestion comes from the Klamath News and Herald, which argues that the measure was defeated because it was presented as a constitutional amendment. It comes from the Oregon Statesman which goes a bit further in intimating rather strongly that, because the amendment was beaten the statute should be passed. It will probably be advanced elsewhere and there need be little doubt that there will be heavy pressure brought to bear on the legislature from interested sources for just this sort of thing.

Our own opinion is that the legislature, with the people's decision in mind and remembering also its own action of less than two years before in providing an additional \$5,000,000 of state funds for redistribution to the districts, might well consider that its time could be better devoted to other matters. —Bond Bulletin.

Youth and the State

In the past, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt has been known to throw out an idea, and then later on the president adopts it. Which one incubates the idea we cannot say, but that has been a method. One example is the limit of \$25,000 a year on incomes in wartime.

Some time ago Mrs. Roosevelt offered as a "good idea" the suggestion that all youth give a year to the government, and carefully included girls in the plan. Now we find the president expressing hope that this winter congress will approve a plan to require of all youth one year in government service. It wouldn't need to be all military, he said, citing the CCC and its civilian work as a sample of other worthwhile activity.

This proposal will meet with powerful opposition, not just from professional pacifists, but from educators, churches and political leaders who oppose the principle of devoting the time of all youth for a year to the service of government. What, they may well ask, would be the difference except in point of time, with the Hitler Youth or the communist youth bands of Soviet Russia?

Instead of rushing through such a program this winter, more time should be taken to study it—and we don't believe (the people will approve of it after they do give it study.

Community Law Invalid

Oregon's optional community property law goes into the waste basket by the ukase of the federal supreme court in deciding a test case based on a similar Oklahoma law. The decision is not surprising. The purpose of the state law was to plain—escape of a part of the federal income tax—that the court ruled it was invalid.

The inequity remains however, for taxpayers in the eight non-elective community property states are still able to divide the joint income of husband and wife and so obtain the lower rates that prevail for incomes in lower brackets. Congress should remove this disparity, either by banning the division of income or else permitting it in all states.

A recent best seller was entitled "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." It seems that other things grow there besides a tree and a rowdy baseball club, and that is town pride. Brooklyn members of New York City's council want Noel Coward's books and plays banned from Brooklyn because he wrote disparagingly of some "mournful little Brooklyn boys" he had come on in the middle east. It's worth noting when a big city demands respect the same as Sauk Center.

Brig. Gen. C. M. Easley, reported wounded in action on Leyte island, is well remembered here for he was one of the first officers to arrive at Camp Adair to set up the 98th division in which he continued serving. He was colonel when he came to Adair and got his general's star shortly afterwards. We don't believe a Jap sniper's bullet will keep jovial, energetic Claude Easley down long.

So Seattle is going to get on the map, finally. The Great Northern announces it will run streamliner trains between Chicago and Seattle on a 47-hour schedule, after the war. This will please Seattle which has been irked because its people had to commute to Portland to catch the UP's streamliner.

Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

A surprise French first army dash through the Belfort gap to reach the upper Rhine to the Swiss border seemed likely to force a German retreat in the south for a few stand behind the Rhine itself.

The southern end of the west front would be the logical place for such a withdrawal. Reputedly powerful fortifications of the Siegfried line lie east of the Rhine from the Swiss frontier to Karlsruhe. They offer the enemy an opportunity to find reinforcements in the south for his hard pressed troops in the Saar area and the Aachen sector, where the main weight of the allied six-army offensive is striking, without weakening his lower Rhine front.

Such a "disengagement" move on the south flank would not greatly shorten the Nazi defensive front. It would, however, release first line field troops, now deployed to guard the passes of the Vosges, for support of those battling the American third army's wide-fronted thrust at the Saar basin gateway and grudgingly giving ground before the combined British-American three army advance toward Cologne.

Secondary troops, undependable for field operations, could offer stubborn resistance from the Rhine fortifications along the upper river. It seems obvious that the supreme need of the foe as the allied winter break-through campaign develops is adequate first line reserves to meet the Saar and Aachen area attacks without weakening the still dormant but critical Neder Rhine front in Holland.

By every sign it is in that northern sector that the German command expects the culminating allied attack to come in due course. The Rhine front itself is vulnerable at that point. Only extemporized defensive works lie east of the Neder Rhine and the Arnheim gateway. That too is the short and direct road to Berlin and great German north coast ports.

It is there, guarding the Dutch extension of the Siegfried line, that allied reports have indicated the cream of German shock troops in the west are concentrated. Yet the massive drive launched by General Eisenhower along virtually the whole Nazi line south of that Dutch sector is making such progress that no Nazi recourse but retreat or the bringing in of heavy reinforcements from the east or Italy remains.

Faced by that dilemma, the Nazi command well may elect to retreat behind the Rhine in the south, or if necessary, along its whole length, rather than shuttle troops westward from the Warsaw front on the Vistula in Poland. For there can be no doubt that heavy Russian forces have been massed there for a major effort to match the allied winter drive in the west.

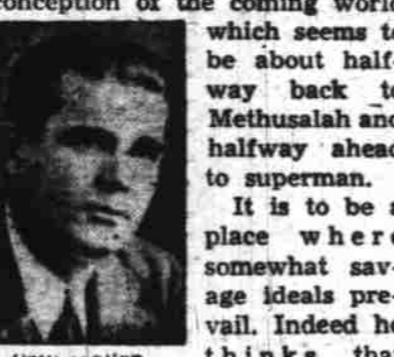


The Hypnotists Almost Have Him Convinced

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—George Bernard Shaw has set forth upon the front pages his conception of the coming world which seems to be about half-way back to Methuselah and halfway ahead to Superman.



Paul Mallon

It is to be a place where somewhat savage ideas prevail. Indeed he thinks that time already has arrived when women get their men "like the Danakils," the Ethiopian tribe in which he says the males were required to show four scalps on their belts before being considered for mating.

Mr. Shaw must have seen some unusual women lately, as those requirements do not seem to be in effect around here.

The important and disturbing dream of Mr. Shaw's future world political mating has equaly great dramatic possibilities for a play but is equally unrealistic. He conjures up a sphere dominated apparently by communistic ideals and Catholic ideals, but with the communist ideals obviously dominant because man is to work for the state, or least not be guided by any democratic theories.

This all seems to me somewhat confused in Mr. Shaw's mind, but essentially what he wants, or thinks is coming, is a super-world state.

The best official eyes here or at least those sharp enough and close enough to the situation to see everything going on inside have failed to discern anything like that kind of a world in immediate prospect. There will be no super-state in the coming peace. You may be sure of that.

The resistance here to the merging of sovereignties is evident in state department policies, and really has not been brought up seriously since Mr. Wallace tried out the same vague idea so unsuccessfully in some speeches a year or two back advocating a peace that would take us half-way to communist and bring communism halfway to us. The trend of the Dumbarton Oaks agreement completely discards this old and highly imaginative theory.

Also Mr. Shaw does not seem to have read Mr. Roosevelt's campaign speeches, pledging himself to free enterprise and the democratic system, which

has done about as well in this war as any other, since it is supplying the world and producing the wherewithal of victory. Russia clearly could not have won without our help.

The philosophic Mr. Shaw evidently is looking at the matter the way most communists and radicals seem to see it without recognizing the superior job democracy has done and can do.

But Mr. Shaw has presented at least a correct discernment of the forces evident behind the news of current international developments. He speaks of both Catholicism and communism in the philosophic sense that Christian idealism springs from the Bible as the opposing communist ideal springs from Marx.

He has merely overlooked the fact that the Bible, in its philosophic essence, also represents the democratic ideal of the individuality of the human soul, of the personal being of a man, and it is not compatible with his enslavement to the state—as in fact, Marx himself recognized in his characterization of all religion as a hope for the minds of the people.

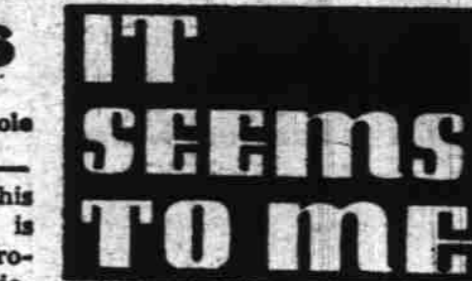
These two ideals are just as far apart as the savagery Shaw mentioned in relation to mating as he calls it, and marriage as the Bible conceives it to be. You cannot compromise them in statecraft any more than in the social relationship between men and women.

Hitler who borrowed most of his fascism from communistic theories also conceived marriage to be a relationship to be encouraged primarily in the interest of the state.

Christianity conceives marriage to be an individual compact primarily for the good of the individuals involved in their human relation to God. But even from a non-religious standpoint, marriage is justified by natural law. It has proved over many thousands of years to furnish the best way to raise children. Mere mating hardly offers the required permanent and serious responsibility.

The Marxian-Hitler and communist philosophies recognized this also by trying to supplant the lack of individual parental discipline with discipline by the state.

Mr. Shaw obviously is still a dramatist, and has taken his customary long stretched license with realism.



(Continued from page 1)

a member of parliament. A band of irate constituents called on Mr. Gregsbury, M. P. His spokesman was Mr. Pugstyles, who said:

"I am very sorry to be here, sir, but your conduct, Mr. Gregsbury, has rendered this deputation from your constituents, imperatively necessary."

"My conduct, Pugstyles," said Mr. Gregsbury, looking round upon the delegation with gracious magnanimity—"My conduct has been, and ever will be, regulated by a sincere regard for the true and real interests of this great and happy country. Whether I look at home or abroad; whether I behold the peaceful industrial communities of our island home; her rivers covered with steamboats, her roads with locomotives, her streets with cabs, her skies with balloons of a power and magnitude hitherto unknown in the history of aeronautics of this or any other nation—I say, whether I look merely at home, or stretching my eyes farther, contemplate the boundless prospect of conquest and possession—achieved by British perseverance and British valor—which is outspread before me, I clasp my hands, and turning to the broad expanse above my head, exclaim, 'Thank Heaven, I am a Briton!'"

Nothing daunted by this outburst of campaign oratory, post-dated, Pugstyles pressed his inquiries to the uncomfortable Gregsbury:

First, if he had not pledged previous to the election to "put down the practice of coughing and groaning in the house of commons"—only to submit to the same in the very first debate of the session and since?

Second, if you did not pledge to support your colleague on every occasion—only to desert him "the night before last"?

Third: "Whether you, sir, did not state upon the hustings that it was your firm and determined intention to oppose everything proposed; to divide the house upon every question, to move for returns on every subject, to place a motion on the books every day, and in short, in your own words, to play the very devil with everything and everybody?"

"Mr. Gregsbury reflected, blew his nose, threw himself further back in his chair, came forward again, leaning his elbows on the table, made a triangle with his two thumbs and his two forefingers, and tapping his nose with the apex thereof, replied (smiling as he said it), 'I deny everything.'"

That was over a century ago; so the necessity for the people to "keep continually alert" and to police their representatives in the legislature or in congress is not of recent origin. The Gregsburies are not politically extinct.

But is there no word to be said for the officeholder? Must he be continually hoisted on the pitchforks of hostile constituents whose ideas or whose whims he may have deserted? Surely there is. Simply this: being an officeholder and being a candidate are two different things. As one governor of Oregon remarked after he had been in office a short while: "Things look different on the inside than they did on the outside." Times change too: the catchword of the 1916 campaign was not purposely betrayed by Pres. Wilson; the German declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare was what forced our country into war in 1917.

All the same, there remains the duty of constant vigilance on the part of the people themselves lest their genuine mandates be not abandoned because of altered conditions—but betrayed by faithless representatives.

Teles of Heroism Abound in Battle Worn Tankes 34th

By William B. King
WITH THE FIFTH ARMY IN ITALY, Nov. 9—(delayed)—(P)—Take a puddle—jumping leap through the slick mud, fog and driving rain of the northern Italy battlefield and talk to just anyone in the 34th division and you're bound to hear a tale of heroism.

These warriors who wear the sign of the red bull on their arms have been through some of the bloodiest fighting in North Africa and Italy and still they are punching the enemy.

Just recently, there was a house on a hill that both Americans and Germans were anxious to hold. Nazis were in it and the Americans wanted it. The job fell to a small group led by Lt. William M. Campbell, Jackson Heights, N.Y., and 2nd Lt. Gordon J. Wehner, Baltimore, Md.

Four times they tried and then on the fifth attempt they drove into the building and stuck. During the next 36 hours they stayed there although the Germans attempted to blast them out with direct tank fire, artillery and mortars. The Germans made six separate counter-attacks but each failed.

At one point the Americans held one room while the Germans still fought in another. The German fire was so heavy that a part of the house collapsed burying four Americans. Still they held. Campbell and Wehner had only 17 men in their assault unit, but in the battle which raged for that isolated house they killed at least 15 Germans, wounded others and captured 31.

Capt. Harvey J. Brodsky of Sturgis, S.D., in a recent push made a personal reconnaissance into enemy territory to plan a flanking attack. Although seriously wounded about the head by mortar fragments, he refused medical attention as he led his men into an attack which resulted in the capture of a village.

But here is the interesting angle to the story: Capt. Brodsky would not be on hand if it were not for the heroism of one of the sergeants.

Approximately a month ago the captain was checking the area in front of his troops when a patrolling German rifleman surprised and captured him. As Brodsky's captor turned toward German positions S/Sgt. Everett C. Knight of Utica, Miss., also on patrol, saw what was happening.

A well-aimed burst from Knight's tommygun toppled the German and Brodsky raced to join his sergeant. Together they returned to their positions.

A regimental commander of Rochester, N.Y., rose higher in the estimation of his men when he recently led nine of them on one of the war's most brilliant patrols. With Lt. Myer Kastan of Glendale, N.Y., and eight mudducked GI's, he probed more than two miles ahead of his frontlines to capture the strategic town of Montepiano on the Prato road.

They captured five vitally important bridges north and south of the town which is in the Apennines northwest of Florence, and killed at least 10 Germans, rounded up 20 others and scattered the rest.

The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

SAFETY IN DRIVING
To the Editor:

I take exceptions to one large class of drivers, those over age, meaning over 65, left behind the driver's wheel and often are hazards on highways, in extending driver's licenses.

It would not say that, neither is it a fact, whether a driver is 16 or over 65 years of age, doesn't in the least prove his driving ability. It is all summed down to whether he obeys traffic rules, speed limits; is careless of his own life, thereby threatening others; can gauge distance; dims his lights in time; shows highway courtesy and is a careful driver; keeps his car in good operating condition; does not mix alcoholic drinks with driving.

There is no measure of age governing this. If the individual is not sick, and at any age one can be sick, an insurance company has these standards. However that does not save lives nor property. Let's not discriminate against our fathers, mothers, sons or daughters. This is a free country. All of us must become past 65 of age.

C. E. MCKEEHAN
Route 7
Salem, Ore.

Oregon Blind To Be Trained

PORTLAND, Nov. 20—(AP)—Five hundred blind Oregonians will be trained and placed in new jobs within five years, the new director of the federal-state vocational rehabilitation service for the blind predicted today.

Clifford A. Stocker, who described his goal as a job for every blind person in the state, said sightless persons have proved more skillful than the average workers in such difficult job operations as milling machines, drill presses, and grinders.

They would fit in special jobs in ice cream and candy plants, laundries, bakeries, machine shops, and airplane wing assemblies in Oregon, Stocker said.

WLB Sugar Panel Will Hear Labor Dispute

DENVER, Nov. 20—(AP)—A sugar panel of the national war labor board decided today to open hearings Dec. 12 in Denver to consider labor dispute issues involving six beet sugar companies.

The firms are the Utah-Idaho Sugar company of Salt Lake City and its subsidiary, the Gunnison Sugar company of Gunnison, Colo.; the Great Western Sugar company of Denver; the Holly Sugar company of Colorado Springs; the National Sugar company of Sugar City, Colo.; and the American Crystal Sugar company of Denver.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"Pop's letting me use the car for our date tonight, but we won't be able to leave the garage with it... he's out of gas stamps!"

Stevens
Diamonds - Watches - Jewelry
Give "Him" A Distinctive Ring For Christmas
Place a masculine Cameo, Signet or Lodge ring on his finger this Christmas. Stevens & Son offers an extensive selection for Yuletide giving!
December 1st
Last day for mailing packages with assured delivery by Christmas.
We engrave gifts in our store.
Credit If Desired