

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Lights Go on Again

Lights may not have gone on again "all over the world", but they have at the Oregon state capitol. Pedestrians going along Court, Summer or State streets Tuesday night had the thrill of seeing the building illuminated for the first time since the dimout that followed Pearl Harbor. It was a surprise, for the resumption of lighting had not been announced—and the thrill was greater because of that fact. One could not but pause to drink in the view. The white marble of the tower was suffused with a soft glow; the street lamps below cast shadows in festoons at its base, while the golden statue of the pioneer atop the tower gave a beaming accent to the scene.

Salem folk are happy to have the statehouse lighted again. They recall the old capitol and how its plain bulbs at the top of the dome served as a signlight for the valley; and they remember too the special lighting effects worked out for the new capitol. This illumination gives a focus to the capitol group at night and adds warmth. Maybe at Christmas time we can have the colored lighting too.

Renewal of lighting doesn't mean that the war is over or that we have settled back to peacetime routines. The local danger has passed, so it's safe to turn on the lights again. But this lighting ought to be a symbol that we are keeping the fires of our patriotism kindled, the fires of war industry burning, and the fires of home hearths glowing against the sky for the day of return for those who are absent on perilous missions.

We thank Secretary of State Farrell for turning on the lights, and for doing so without announcement or publicity—it is a sign of the quiet constancy which distinguishes the state of Oregon.

VD Increases

Some official explanation is in order on the startling increase in cases of venereal disease in Oregon. The Statesman has noted the increase before. The latest figures—75 per cent increase in number of cases over the same period two years ago—calls for a public statement as to the causes from the state board of health.

The report shows 2035 new cases of syphilis for the year ending November 1, and 3088 new cases of gonorrhea for the same period, which as noted, is 75 per cent more than two years ago. At that time the army camps were full. Is the increase now due to a letdown of police and control measures? Are the sources of contamination houses of prostitution or street-walkers or juveniles on the loose? What steps are being taken by health and police authorities to improve matters?

The federal government has been pouring money into the fight against VD, through the public health service, and campaigns of education are conducted with the purpose of stamping out the disease. Yet these figures stare us in the face and indicate either that our preventive measures are wrong or inadequate or our policing feeble.

Somebody should say something.

The Wodehouses

The Wodehouses turned up in Paris—in a Paris jail, where they were taken by French police, though apparently their detention was quite brief. Wodehouse is the English novelist who failed to get out of France in time and was arrested by the nazis, who took him and his wife to the Hotel Adlon in Berlin. Wodehouse was expatriate or dumb enough to broadcast from Berlin in June, 1941, telling the world that his internment was "quite an agreeable experience," and referring to his captors as "a fine body of men." The reaction in England was quick and severe, which seemed to surprise Wodehouse who evidently had no conception of the real character of the war and of his country's plight.

Wodehouse with his characters like Jeeves and Pamith was a Satevepost favorite and his books sold very well in America. A good many of his former admirers will want to take an aspirin before reading another of his stories.

Editorial Comment

"LET FATHER DO IT"

The barometers of public opinion reveal a steady and powerful trend, dividing the population of the United States into two classes representing distinctly different psychologies of thought and behavior, according to Henry C. Link, Ph.D., of the Psychological Corporation of New York. The two classes may be summed up as those whose attitude is to "let father do it," and those who say "let me do it." Some of the variations follow:

- Let Me
1. The country owes me and my family a living.
 2. The government should take care of me and my family in my old age.
 3. The government should legislate jobs for the youth.
 4. My troubles are due to a stupid and unjust system.
 5. The average man can be improved by legislation, or by changing the "system."
 6. War can be abolished by laws and by eliminating war profits.
 7. The government should run the lives of the nation, including social relationship and business.
 8. If the wealth of the country were redistributed, my lot would be improved.
- Let Me
1. I will take care of myself and my family.
 2. It is up to me to provide for old age, or to raise a family decent enough to take care of me.
 3. It is up to me to get or make my own job.
 4. My troubles are due to my own incompetence and stupidity.
 5. The average man can be helped only by improving his character and ability.
 6. War can be prevented only by abolishing personal hatreds, beginning at home, and all I want from the government is protection at the lowest cost.
 7. Only by developing my own powers of production will my lot be improved.
 8. Highways of Happiness

China Shifts Cabinet

General Joe Stilwell drove his demands so hard that his recall from Chungking followed, but apparently he has won his point, though not on hand in China to profit by it. For Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has reshuffled his cabinet, making eight changes among his ministers. Pressure for this was not solely from China's allies. The recent council held in the capital was insistent on certain changes, particularly the removal of General Ho Ying-chin as minister of war, who was charged with using China's best troops to ride herd on the communist armies in the north.

General Ho is now replaced by General Chen Cheng who has made a good record as field officer. Dr. H. H. Kung, minister of finance, another target of the council, will be succeeded by O. K. Yui, former mayor of Shanghai. Other changes are of less importance.

The cabinet reorganization should go far toward satisfying the critics of Chiang Kai-shek's government both within China and without. It is easy for us to be severe in our condemnation, because we are adjusted to direct and prompt action. China's methods are different. The 33 years of its existence as a republic are but a moment in the long centuries of its national life. During this period China has attempted political reform and social change and has had to endure invasion from a merciless, well-equipped, greedy foe. History will say that Chiang has done well merely to hold his country together in this ordeal. The western world hopes that soon China's own sun will shine over that great country and the sun of Japan sink in black night.

Crop Insurance

Crop insurance was a costly flop when it was tried, with heavy administrative costs and big losses for the government; but because the political parties in their zeal for votes made promises of restoring it, the house of representatives (the same body which killed it last year) now adopts the scheme again. The news report says: "Nobody knows how much it will cost," and seemingly nobody cares.

As far as we have heard farmers talk there is little demand among them for crop insurance. They know the weather hazards of farming, but except in a few marginal areas farmers have been pretty successful in the gamble against weather. Politicians though are desperate in their desires to do something for somebody whether he wants it or not.

After all the flutter about whether Hitler was living or not, rumors have gotten around again to saying Hitler has a double. If he has a double, why isn't he used as a dummy for public exposure? "Where's Hitler?" seems to be an embarrassing question for the German propagandists.

Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Hampered but not halted by bad weather, the six army allied offensive against the nazi west-wall is soaring toward its crisis at both ends of the 400-mile battle front.

Coupled with the vast Russian sweep over the whole Hungarian plain west of the Danube and the long and significant lull in red army offensive operations in Poland, it bodes for Germany a Christmas season with portents of complete defeat soon.

That within days, not months, the foe will have been forced back behind the high Rhine in the south is certain. The battle of the Vosges has been lost by the nazis. Nazi ability to continue organized resistance was fast fading away everywhere west of Germany's Rhine-Saar frontiers reflecting a nazi flight for safety within the fortifications along the east banks of both streams. Armored columns of the reborn French army with powerful American aid were turning blitz warfare against its nazi authors in the Rhine valley.

Poised at Colmar in the south and Strassburg in the north, they seemed ready to complete the encirclement of the whole Vosges range. Through every Vosges pass American or French foot troops were forcing their way to split the foe into segments for annihilation.

There was allied progress, too, in the north despite the clogging mud and chilling rain that sharply limited full scale air support for the allied advance. Slow and painful as was the forward movement of the concentrated allied three-army hammer blow to exploit the Siegfried line breach into a full break-through, it was moving forward. There were hints of nazi desperation in resort to erratic buzz bomb bombardment tactics, and more than hints of despair in nazi commentators word-pictures of the agonies front line troops were enduring under sustained allied night and day attacks.

The Thanksgiving war news from Europe held much to help along American keeping of that feast day tradition. Nor was there lacking more favorable word from the other side of the world with disclosure from China that new American-Chinese dispositions to deal with Japanese invaders had been initiated. General Wedemeyer, successor to General Stilwell as American commander in China, announced from Chungking acceptance by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek of his joint operations plans although he gave no hint of what they involved.

The disclosure gives substance to the Chiang cabinet shake-up which earlier stirred hopes of impending Chinese unity of action against the Japanese invader. Whatever is now planned to cope with Japanese success in linking up a slender and vulnerable land communication corridor between the northern and southern enemy occupation zones in eastern China, it seems clear that the corridor itself offers glittering possibilities of air and ground harassment to deny the Japanese any effective use of its facilities.



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More Words the Navy Won't Forget

The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

OPPOSES PURCHASE

615 North 14th street
To the Editor:
Without wishing to detract from the gratitude extended to the Bush estate for their generous gift to the city of Salem, it might well be asked "What benefit will the additional acreage mean for the residents, particularly the children from the north end of the city?"

An additional \$175,000 to the city's debt will mean an additional \$10,000 a year carrying charge on already over-burdened property.

Figures furnished me by the state of Oregon show that real property already contributes 84 per cent of the total tax income of the state, to say nothing of city taxes.

Thirty-four acres would mean 240 city lots, which might reasonably be expected (eventually) would carry an assessment of \$2000 per lot or, in other words, Salem would not only have to assume a \$10,000 annual carrying charge for this tract of land but would have to forego a tax income of \$30,000 a year.

Salem needs a new court house and fire station; Salem needs and will have to have a sewage disposal plant and this \$40,000 a year would go a tremendous long way toward paying the carrying charges on these projects.

Yours truly
E. G. KINGWELL

ARE WE "LETTING OUR BOYS DOWN?"

To the Editor:

Are we not, as Hitler hoped and prophesied, "getting tired of the war" and falling to back up our boys as we should? I know that the great majority of us are "doing our utmost" but there are all too many who are actually helping the Japs and nazis by retarding the war work, striking on the most trivial excuse, taking "vacations" which are not needed. The boys overseas work in mud, rain and slush 18 to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Many thousands are being mangled or killed outright. Other tens of thousands will have their health ruined for life. (All for less per 24 hour day than the union men get per hour) and they cannot strike (and would not if they could).

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



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News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 22—All

the news from China has been bad lately, excepting Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek's thorough shaking out of his cabinet.

From the inside, it appears that the generalissimo, having been instrumental in ousting our General Stilwell and thus having saved face with his own people for the military failures, is now getting ready to cooperate more closely with the other United Nations. At least this is what might be termed the inner official view here.

The motives behind the Stilwell withdrawal, unexplained at the time, thus now become more fully evident. The whole panoply of mystifying news from that front thus becomes apparent. Chiang has always been suspicious of the Chinese communists. While they are fighting on his side with their armies far off in

the north, he actually has had soldiers detached from his own war effort on the Japanese front to watch them. True, the communists have not been much of a deterrent to the Japs. While some published estimates of their strength run as high as 300,000, numbers are worthless in gauging any Chinese fighting forces. No one knows exactly how many troops the commies have, except that these have been sufficient to repel a few Jap attacks. Many whom they count as soldiers are actually farmers who run to action in an emergency. Others are untrained civilians, and the term "bandit" has been applied to a few in the past.

Now by kicking from his cabinet the strongest anti-communist elements, Chiang is falling in line with the ideas of officialdom here for more coherent action on that front.

However, the change can be interpreted as more political than military so far.

Those who know the new war minister say they expect his leadership to bring some "improvement" in Chinese fighting, but very few people in this country appreciate the difficulties he is facing.

Frankly, it must now be said that no satisfactory Chinese military effort has developed anywhere lately. The action on the Salween river front may be an exception, but there, we trained the officers and men. It is now time to admit, also, China is mostly in Jap hands. All of the industry and much of the agriculture went long ago. The sea-coast is closed. Most of the internal railroads are controlled by the Japs.

We are today flying in from India through the only contact the Chinese have with the outside world, more materials of war than were carried on the Burma road before the Japs cut it.

But our planes flying in a load of gasoline for instance probably consume as much as much as they can carry as a load. The limitations upon our assistance are therefore evident, and likely to continue indefinitely, although we have greatly increased our supplies in the last 5 months.

Then again we must recognize that her armies are sometimes led by what we used to call "provincial war lords," many of whom are politicians not strictly supporting the Chungking government.

The Chinese internal economic distribution system has not improved much since before the war, when news of vast starvation was a world sensation almost annually. Inflation is unbelievable, and indeed most authorities suspect China cannot survive financially even if peace comes soon. Certainly the central government is none too sure of itself.

But as these internal inefficiencies, dissensions and weaknesses are native to the Chinese, so also has been their cold, valorous spirit of resistance against the conquerer. While the difficulties practically amount now to internal demoralization, they are not likely to lead to a collapse of the fight on that front.

No one here expects such a critical conclusion. For one thing the Japs are not in a position to take full advantage of the situation.

You must therefore turn your eye to other fronts for good news and in any other direction you look, you will find it good.

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT

This Intersection Should Be Named
Ernest Hat Corner

WITH THE AEF ON THE WESTERN FRONT, Nov. 17 (Delayed) —(F) Pvt. Ernest Dingman of Rome, NY, a combat military policeman, was directing traffic at a front line inter-section when he was handed a message by an officer who said:

"A general will be coming along soon. Please give him this note."
That seemed Kenneth L. Dixon simple—at first. By actual count during the next hour, seven generals, 40 colonels and innumerable lesser brass hats buzzed by Ernest's intersection. Ernest delivered the note to the right general.

Some new prisoners wearing decorations awarded to those fortunate enough to survive the disastrous Stalingrad campaign, said they expected Hitler would soon hand out more such decorations.

They explained that they thought they had earned it. Long ago the award was nicknamed meaning "the frozen meat medal." It has been cold here.

Many guys are carried off beachheads in litters, but Lt. Col. Stephen W. Benkosky of Columbia, SC, was carried ashore that way.

Aboard ship, in the middle of the channel, in the Normandy invasion, the colonel was stricken with appendicitis. There was no operating room.

"So they just removed the

The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY

"MENTOR GRAMHAM: THE MAN WHO TAUGHT LINCOLN." By Kunigunde Duncan and D. F. Nickols (University of Chicago; \$3.75).

Many a Lincoln specialist will find it hard to believe that anything both new and important can be written about Lincoln, but this has been done by a Kansan, Kunigunde Duncan, and a man from Illinois, D. F. Nickols.

"Mentor Gramham: The Man Who Taught Lincoln" is the title of their book, and it brings back from limbo a person who strongly influenced the Emancipator. It is fortunate that Gramham is also an interesting man, stubborn, fiery, strong and, after his experience teaching Lincoln and Ann Rutledge, a convinced Lincoln supporter through thick, and even more through thin.

Mentor first knew Lincoln in Kentucky, but not well. He himself said he had only seen young Abe there. But later, when the Gramhams had moved to Illinois and the Lincolns as well, Gramham became his teacher and a strict one. It was he who took young Abe, self-taught practically speaking, and broadened his reading, his knowledge of basic subjects, and counseled him generally.

Mentor was of Scottish background, and a man of principle. It is not much use to outline his career, since Miss Duncan and Mr. Nickols have done it in detail, but there is some point to showing how far Gramham could go in support of his favorite. Toward the end of the 'fifties the situation in Illinois between abolitionists and copperheads was more strained than most people know. Copperheads were in control generally, and although Scots are rarely radical, they could in those days follow principle relentlessly, so that sometimes they were radical in effect—as was Mentor.

Some of his "principles" were not too important; he was a fanatic about separating well and sick hogs. But also, he used to go into Petersburg and talk about the business district daring anybody to say a derogatory word about Lincoln; he was seldom challenged, either. He supported Lincoln against the world, and when at last Lincoln was inaugurated, he called Mentor to the platform, and Mentor went.

They had only a four-day pass away from the front, but Lts. Robert L. Pekley of Des Moines, Ia., and Roger S. Ryan of New York City had made the most of it when I picked them up hitchhiking in the rain in a little town behind the front.

"We've been to London and Paris," grinned red-headed Ryan. "Now we are going back to our companies." As Pekley dropped off to sleep worn out, Ryan explained they had left their line companies and hitch-hiked to the nearest airport. The pilots promptly fixed them up with a ride direct to London. After a brief look at the city they got a plane ride back to Paris, spent the night, and hitch-hiked back to the front.

As we drove along, I told Ryan about a new attack which started the day before.

"Yeah, we heard about it," he said soberly. "I guess we're in for it again—but we had four days anyway."

Happy coincidence department: About a month ago the Germans captured an American sergeant who was carrying a bunch of mail for an engineer outfit attached to the 35th division.

A few days ago the 35th took Chateau Salins and captured the house the Germans had been using as a command post. In one corner of the room and still intact was the outfit's missing mail.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

emergency. It is part of the tradition of the telephone operator to be the last to leave her post in time of flood or fire or other disaster. It is indeed regrettable that now this record of faithful performance of duty is marred by the walkout which began in Ohio.

The complaint of operators in Dayton was that out-of-town girls who were brought in to assist in carrying the local load were given subsistence allowance of \$18.25 per week. Yet that has been customary in that and similar utilities. In any event it seems that it could have been resolved by peaceful processes of negotiation or reference to some of the numerous government agencies without interrupting telephone communication in that critical area.

Perhaps the telephone operators have a case of war nerves; or perhaps, having an independent labor organization they lacked qualified leadership to present their case or to counsel their members.

Whatever the truth about the matter is, whether the company has been delinquent in its labor relations or whether the employees have shown an unusual indifference to their responsibility for maintaining telephone service, the Ohio strike is unfortunate in marking a record for fidelity to duty and of responsibility to the public served which is quite without an equal in the field of public utilities.

If the strike does not end immediately, direct Calver Coolidge speaking and acting are indicated.

American Specialists Inspect China Mills

CHUNGKING, Nov. 23 —(F) Donald Nelson, here to expand China's war production, told a press conference yesterday that American production specialists who came with him had been systematically inspecting Chinese mills and factories.

Stevens

Diamonds - Watches - Jewelry

Mail GIFTS Early

— IN FACT —

There are only a few days remaining to mail packages with security of delivery by Christmas. We will gladly wrap, insure and mail your gifts purchased here FREE OF CHARGE!

WE ENGRAVE GIFTS IN OUR STORE

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