

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Conscription in Canada

Forced to yield to pressure for conscription to restore the fighting strength of Canada's overseas armies, Prime Minister Mackenzie King now has to face the loss of support from his bloc of liberals from the province of Quebec, long a liberal stronghold. If he loses that support his government will be defeated and he will have to call an election. King called an election rather hurriedly about two years ago and got a parliamentary majority. Since then opposition parties, especially the CCF (cooperative federation), have made great headway in the prairie province of Manitoba and the social credit party still rules in Saskatchewan, neither of which is friendly to King, so he tries to avert an election.

It seems strange that Canada has not had conscription before this, loyal as it is to the British commonwealth. But Canada is a two-language country. The French-Canadians are a solid bloc in Quebec and eastern Ontario. They have no ties with France, save language, and admit no loyalties to France. As far as Canada goes they consider themselves true Canadians, because their ancestors occupied Canada long before the British came. They are solidly Catholic and loyal to the church. Primarily, they are true "isolationalists."

In the last war there was trouble in Quebec when it finally became necessary to resort to conscription. This time, in spite of the demonstrations reported against the government action in ordering 16,000 men sent overseas, Quebec probably will acquiesce. If the King government should fall its successor will be even stronger for conscription—a fact which may temper the rebellion of the Quebec members of parliament who ought to see they will lose more by deserting King.

There has never been any doubt of Canada's contribution to the allied cause; but its avoidance of conscription has brought it criticism at home and abroad. Now its government must yield to war's necessities, in spite of local protest.

Tantalizing

It is simply adding insult to injury for Standard Oil (California) to devote its autumn bulletin to Oregon and its "boundless future." Here is the cover with a magnificent panorama in color of Crown Point on Columbia river and the mountains of the gorge. The inside spread is a map of the state spotted with regional activities in the way of occupation and recreation. Numerous illustrations depict the resources of Oregon.

All this and only two gallons of gasoline a week! How could SO do this to us? Probably it is on the theory: "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" Like the seed catalogs that start to come when snow is on the ground, the alert publicists of Standard Oil seek to keep us travel-conscious and development-conscious, the while we walk to work or sit by the fireside.

The purpose of the bulletin, however, is not to whet one's wanderlust, but to acquaint the general public with Oregon's preparations for meeting the problems that lurk just behind the peace proclamation. The bulletin says:

The state has the natural resources to support industry and agriculture on a scale many times greater than now; abundant low cost power; highly developed transportation, including service by five transcontinental railroads; mild climate favoring maximum productive effort. These are blue chips which Oregon is planning to play boldly. The stakes are a future of boundless promise.

Oregonians, of course, knew all this before, but they can't help being pleased to have a big company like Standard of California tell the rest of the world about us.

Main Event

While the French have been making spectacular gains in pouring through the Belfort gap into the Rhineland, the real battle is taking place at the end of the line where the British second and the American ninth and first armies are driving toward the Ruhr. The Germans are concentrating their defense there, and wisely. What the French are doing is recovering Alsace of which Strasbourg is the capital. Their success, while important, is not vital. Across the Rhine is still the Siegfried line and back of that the Black Forest.

The allies at the north end of the line have had bad weather and mud as well as heavy enemy opposition. The Germans throw in tanks and reserves in counterattacks in the effort to prevent our armies from flowing over into the

Editorial Comment

WOODS-CRIER

The blue jay is the town-crier of the woodlands, and in no season of the year is he in better voice than late autumn. When the leaves lie in sodden masses against stone walls and in fence corners, and the bare limbs of the gaunt, rough-barked maples, make a modernistic etching of the sugar grove, Cyanocitta cristata flashes through the air shouting his news for all to hear.

He's a guy fellow in his suit of bright blue, with white and black trimmings. Like the self-confident jousting in the tournaments of long ago, he holds to his course; overriding opposition and challenging any and all that come his way. His jaunty crest is a sign of his high-powered self-assurance. Mr. Blue Jay has acquired a bad reputation and no doubt he deserves a part of it. He robs other birds of eggs and young; he steals nesting materials instead of gathering his own. He's inclined to be overbearing and sassy; he pays no attention to making friends and influencing people. At the bird-feeding stations, he acts as if the whole situation was a one-way lend-lease arrangement for his particular benefit.

Yet, there would be something missing without his flashing beauty and powerful voice in city parks and village commons. He's a part of the country scene as he wings through the old orchard, skirts the trees by the pasture spring, and coasts to a landing in a maple that overhangs the weathered sap-house. Nature's balance is an intricate, delicate affair, and in the total scheme, the blue jay has his part.—Christian Science Monitor.

Cologne plain. While some brilliant maneuver may bring victory there, more probably it will come only after our superior weight of metal and men beats down the German resistance. The Germans are sacrificing so much of their strength in this battle that defeat there may be the fatal climax of the battle of Germany.

Raid Over Tokyo

We couldn't understand the language the Japs were using in Tokyo Friday, if we had been there; but we have no doubt they mixed in plenty of epithets which the Glendale pastors would not approve of, all directed at the super-fortresses which dropped bombs on their industrial plants. We can well imagine the excitement in Tokyo, a lot of running around with fire-buckets and hose—more excitement than at a ball game with Nagasaki. And what a lot of bowing and scraping there must have been at the imperial palace as Premier Hoiso sought to explain events to Hon. Emperor. Perhaps the defense commander at Tokyo will now get the ride to end all rides, in an airplane.

The Doolittle raid of two and a half years ago was just a miniature; and even the sizeable raid reported this week is only a small sample of the pasting which Japanese cities will suffer. The Japs have only to ask their German allies for pictures of Berlin and Cologne and Duesseldorf to see what fate is in store for their cities—worse, probably, because of their flimsier construction.

This is what is called strategic bombing as against tactical bombing and strafing which is done in support of a field army. It is designed to destroy or cripple the enemy's war potential. The American purpose is not primarily to take war to civilians but to damage military objectives. General Arnold says that we will expand and extend these operations from Saipan, from Alaska and from China for the pulverizing of Japan's war industries.

At long last we are truly carrying the war to Tokyo. Pearl Harbor is being repaid, with compound interest.

Taxi Drivers Revolt

While the Seattle chamber of commerce has made its truce with Dave Beck (on his terms), Beck, like most dictators, finally faces opposition within his own ranks. This time it is the taxicab drivers of Seattle who say they are tired of taxation without representation. Their union, which is a section of the teamsters' union bossed by Dave Beck, hasn't met since the war started, and members say they have never received an accounting or been consulted on expenditures. After a brief strike the drivers returned to their taxis, but say they are considering a switch to a CIO affiliation, which Beck wouldn't like at all.

It probably is just another case of labor dictatorship. Based originally on strong-arm methods, the union gets powerful and its leader becomes a real boss. His bossing includes ordering the employees to come to terms and making the union members do as he tells them. Beck, for example, forbids the taxi drivers to meet until he gets back from the AFofL convention at New Orleans.

A good place for democracy to start is in a lot of these AFofL unions where dictatorship flourishes and union dues become tribute to the labor masters.

The nazis are firing their robot bombs blindly at allied armies—they are throwing everything they've got, including the kitchen stove.

It's remarkable how things change. What used to be ham in the way of entertainment is now corn.

Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

There was a post-Thanksgiving thrill in the war news from Europe and Asia alike.

Superbombers based on captured western Pacific islands blazed a new trail to Tokyo. The air siege of Japan aimed at her widespread war industries had begun.

In Europe, French-American break-throughs were being swiftly exploited to sweep Alsace, and all France, free of Germans. Allied scouting elements even were reported beyond the Rhine in the region of recaptured Strasbourg. French Rhine bank metropolis, which had been the last French city of consequence in German hands.

There were headline rating developments, but to General Eisenhower and his joint staff at allied supreme headquarters in the west, there were other items in the news from the front probably of even greater moment.

Of prime importance to allied planners of the swelling western winter attack is the indication that the German command in the west now has been forced to commit its guarded and scanty reserves to battle on the Roer. Front line advances told of multi-division counter attacks thrown against British and American armies pounding through the Aachen breach in the Siegfried line. Included were jealously conserved nazi armored divisions equipped with Tiger tanks shipped direct from factory to front.

The results of those desperate German efforts to ward off a critical Anglo-American break-through were not fully available as this was written. First reports indicated, however, that the enemy had been halted with relatively unimportant dents in the British or American attack front.

To General Eisenhower and his top staffers, however, the fact that the foe has elected to risk his all west of the Rhine rather than to retreat behind its broad waters for his final stand is of supreme importance. It means that in all likelihood the most decisive battle of the war in the west has been joined, even though the full scope and power of allied efforts to crash deep into Germany has yet to be reached.

Eisenhower's mission and the objective of all allied or Russian strategic moves is to come to grips with and destroy German armies in the field. The chance for that is immediately offered west of the Rhine if the Germans have now thrown in the bulk of their reserves there.



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House Hunting

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, Nov. 24—These stories you hear again now of a quick end of the war seem to be about to create another wave of optimism. They are rooted more in hopes than in facts. Actually strong resistance has been met by our initial power

Paul Mallon drives at the German line. The military men consider it theoretically possible that everything will break right for us once our current drives may go rolling on faster as the hopeful say, but they do not expect it. Tougher ground certainly lies ahead of General Patton, and perhaps all along the front.

What the sound judges here want to see before changing their mind about it taking all winter is some evidence of nazi defensive weakness. If you see that you will know the end is near.

The Philippines campaign certainly will not be over soon in any event. General MacArthur's job ahead means months. Not only the hurricane weather is favoring the Japs, but also the terrain beyond Leyte, upon the main island of Luzon.

The Jap drive in China luckily is limited. All advice here prove rather conclusively that the Jap strategy is directly only toward cutting central China off from Burma—if it can be done. But even if this mission is accomplished, they will then have long lines of communications running back to the coast and exposed to the Chinese on both sides, the north and the south.

Such extensions are really invitations for the special type of fighting the Chinese do best. China is not sufficiently equipped for battle, indeed could not protect five or six of our valuable airfields which have now been lost to the enemy.

That the Jap armies may attempt to go on to Chungking is hardly likely. Their game is to make themselves strong along the coast for the days ahead when we have a chance to get at them. An end of the war in China anytime soon is hardly to be expected, but possibly the op-

portunity will continue under administration auspices. The senate has a judiciary sub-committee looking into that subject, but nothing can be expected of it. The Mead war investigating committee will continue under administration auspices.

But also dying is the house radio hearings. With Chairman Fly out, the committee will decide to close.

Of course, with Paul Forster, democratic publicity man in as radio (communications) chairman, and the labor boss Petrillo holding the disc-making activities of NBC and Columbia well in hand, you can see how radically the situation has been altered.

If the republicans had won they would have sponsored investigations into surplus power, enlarged the Smith committee, and maintained the congressional policing system.

Oregon Legion Backs Purple Heart Boxes

PORTLAND, Nov. 24—(AP)—The "purple heart Christmas box" campaign, part of a nation-wide plan to brighten Christmas for wounded veterans, was endorsed Thursday by the Oregon American Legion.



Thomas! What's this suit you picked out for me as sharp as—again!

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

election day, or went fishin'. They wouldn't vote for Roosevelt and they just couldn't vote republican.

One fact stands out in a study of vote statistics in the south, and that is the smallness of the number who do vote. In Oregon, for example, at the last election 42 per cent of the 1940 population voted; in South Carolina 31 per cent; Mississippi 5 per cent; Virginia 15 per cent; North Carolina 20 per cent; Florida 22 per cent. There are reasons, of course. The November election is more or less formal in the south, the real fight taking place in the preceding primary elections of the democratic party. Negroes are generally barred from voting, and poor whites who have failed to pay a poll tax in states requiring it are disfranchised. Thus, a small minority actually runs the politics of the southern states. One of the reasons for opposing national legislation against making poll tax payment a condition for voting is not merely "white supremacy" but also to preserve political power in the hands of the ruling oligarchy.

Plainly there is no hope for a break-up of the solid south through the republican party. Its organization in southern states is weak and usually vena. Only in 1928 did several southern states—Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas—go republican, and that was because Al Smith was a Catholic and anti-prohibition, though Tennessee went for Harding in 1920. Nor is there any prospect of a political realignment which would crack up the solid south, because the election laws and practices so definitely favor the democratic party.

There are signs of political upheaval within the democratic party, however. Even on the negro question a moderation of attitude on the part of many southerners is noted. A number of the southern states have done away with the poll tax, and in many communities there is recognition that more negroes should be permitted to exercise their right of suffrage. In numerous states old guard politicians were defeated this year. Lister Hill won re-nomination for the senate in Alabama and Claude Pepper in Florida, though both opposed the poll tax and were assailed by advocates of "white supremacy." (The bitterest opposition to the Roosevelt in the south is because of their recognition of rights of negroes.) In South Carolina, old "Cotton Ed" Smith was defeated for re-nomination to the senate; and in North Carolina, Bob Reynolds discreetly declined to run for office again. Joe Starnes was defeated in the primaries in the 5th Alabama district which he had represented in congress, while in Texas Congressman Martin Dies refused to run again and Congressman Richard M. Kleberg, who represented the country's greatest cattle ranch, was defeated.

In brief, political ferment is working in the south, but it stays within the confines of the democratic party. In view of the trends in the south it is clearly a mistake politically for republicans of the north and west to tie up with the democratic old guard of the south. A common dislike of Roosevelt is not adequate warrant to forsake historic principles, one of which for republicans is a fair deal for negroes.

Knowledge of Army ABCs Necessary For War Reporting

WITH THE AEF ON THE WESTERN FRONT, Nov. 18 (Delayed)—(P)—"We are up at op looking through the fo scope when we spot this kraut mt."

So he calls the nearest FA CP and they tell Divarty. Pretty soon the whole FA Batt lets go and KI's the mt."

"Nothing new about that," replied the corporal. "That's practically SOP."

This may sound somewhat like jitterbug jargon. Actually it's fairly normal combat line lingo. Translated, the sergeant is saying simply that they'd been up at the observation post looking through the forward observer's telescope when they had seen some german motor transports moving across no man's land. So they told the forward observer and he called the command post and got the commanding officer on the phone. He told him it was out of anti-tank or machinegun range and the commanding officer said he had only one tank destroyer available. So he called the nearest field artillery command post and they told the division artillery about it. Then pretty soon a whole battery of field artillery fired, knocking out the enemy motor transport.

To which the corporal replied nothing new about the whole episode. The fact is that it is

practically standard operating procedure. Simple? As a matter of fact most of the abbreviations which comprise a large part of military conversation are fairly simple—after you get used to them. Until that time you might as well not bother trying to cover the war, unless you have an interpreter with you. Everybody knows of course that B's, C's, D's and K's stand for various types of field rations. Also it is fairly common knowledge that EM means enlisted man, MP means military policeman, QM quartermasters and HQ headquarters.

But newcomers seldom are aware that CP means command post and when they see an arrow pointing the route to Divarty they're just as likely to assure some Irishman lives down the road as to guess it's the way to reach division artillery.

You know APO means post-office, but did you know: ALO means air liaison officer; ASP, army supply point; or ADL, air delivery and letter service? Sometimes it's confusing even to veterans. For instance SS can mean special services, which in turn can mean either the army unit which supplies magazines, games and such like to soldiers, or that crack Canadian-American outfit which did such a famous fighting job in Italy. Also it can refer to Stars and Stripes, the army newspaper.

There's a million such alphabetical abbreviations, some grim, some funny. Nobody has any desire to get inside a PWE, which means a prisoner of war enclosure. Also nobody wants to ride down a road marked by signs saying GRO, meaning Graves registration office.

THE LITERARY GUIDEPOST
By JOHN SELBY

"MIDDLE EAST DIARY," by Noel Coward (Doubleday, Doran; \$2). The newspaper profession has lost a very good reporter to the theater in the person of Noel Coward—and if you want to be friendly with him, don't call him "Noel."

It is true that Mr. Coward is financially much happier than he could have been in London's Fleet street, and it is probably true that this financial happiness is important to him; it is to all theatrical folk, theirs being a precarious trade indeed. Yet when Coward writes something not a play or a song, something like his "Middle East Diary" or his not to recent "Present Indicative," the attributes of a great reporter stick out all over the product. I might add that other writers consistently mine Coward's stuff for nuggets, as witness Ilka Chase, whose "Past Imperfect" certainly owes a debt to Coward's "Present Indicative."

Coward's little book is about the Mediterranean area while Sicily and Salerno were being reduced. The playwright was on a personal appearance tour, the most amusing parts of which (to him) were the periods spent aboard ships of the Royal Navy. Like many an Englishman before him, he feels a particular affinity for the Navy and writes brilliantly about it. But the little book is most effective because of Coward's journalistic attributes, and these include:

First, a free gift for the inevitable word. Then a rather special flair for choosing proper detail, and a sure instinct for applying the choice. Many a writer (particularly in magazines) has the feeling that many details are better than one or two revealing ones. Thirdly, Coward knows the value of names quite as well as Ernie Pyle. He overdoes mention of important people by incomprehensible nicknames which must be explained in parentheses, but such yens are common outside as well as inside the theater.

But there is a fourth journalistic attribute Coward can claim, obviously demonstrated throughout this Mediterranean trip. It is the genuine and deep interest all good newspapermen have for their fellow men. Coward loves working for people in the mass.

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SCHOOL CHILDREN ASSIGNED 5 PER CENT BOND QUOTA
PORTLAND, Nov. 24—(AP)—A sixth war loan quota of \$1,700,000—5 per cent of the state's E bond goal—has been set for Oregon school children. This would be an average of about \$8.30 per student, officials said today.

Fernwood school, Portland, has already topped its quota with purchases of \$4,892.40. The winner among schools in the metropolitan area will launch a ship at Swan Island yard early in 1945. Entries in a statewide poster contest for students will be judged next week for war bond prizes.

HISTORY 'COULDN'T LET NAZIS LOSE, GOEBBELS COMPLAINS IN ARTICLE
LONDON, Nov. 24—(AP)—In one of his gloomiest articles, Nazi Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels has declared that "History surely cannot be so unjust" as to let Germany lose.

"It would be quite incomprehensible and completely unbearable if the German people," were not crowned with success," Goebbels said in his weekly article in the magazine Das Reich broadcast by the German radio.

STOREKEEPER RESISTS TORTURE, SAVES COIN
PORTLAND, Nov. 24—(AP)—Lester Wright, Milwaukie, grocery store manager here, was a bit shaky but unharmed after a torture attempt last night by two masked gunmen.

The thieves bound him, then tightened cord around his fingers and hands, Wright said, but he refused to disclose the combination to his safe. So they left with \$20 from his pocket.

ARMY BANS DISPATCHES OPPOSING LIBERATION
BELGRADE, Nov. 19 (Delayed)—(AP)—News dispatches from Yugoslavia "which are directed against the achievements of the national liberation struggle and its successful continuation" are forbidden under a military censorship decree promulgated by army headquarters.

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