

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Sine Die

The 78th congress adjourned sine die on December 19. It has only two more weeks of life, anyway, for its successor will be organized on January 3.

The final action of the senate was to confirm the six members named to high positions in the department of state. When the president advised senators that if his appointees were rejected he would resubmit the same names in January the opposition collapsed, not because it approved the appointees but because since the president is primarily responsible for directing foreign policy it did not want to create the impossible situation of a hiatus in the running of the department and of blocking the president's will as to his assistants. The appointments, however, as predicted in this paper, have shocked the new deal front, a fact the president will have to reckon with.

While the rivers and harbors bill died for lack of agreement between the two houses, the larger flood control bill was passed. It includes authorization of the Niagara dam on the North Fork of the Santiam, one of the items of the Willamette project. The money authorization is for \$20,000,000, but no final decision has been made on whether to build a high or a low dam.

The new congress will have a considerable change in membership. The democrats will have a larger majority in the house, but in the senate their lead is just about the same. While ordinarily this might be taken to mean that the president can count on stronger support in the congress, this does not necessarily follow, as the revolt on his state department appointees indicated.

The problems of war and of peace will still be dominant as the 79th congress moves into being. The turn of the war in Europe has a very sobering effect—there certainly was no hilarity reported as the 78th congress adjourned.

Coast County

The Eugene Register-Guard reports that there is some talk on the coast of forming a new county out of the western portions of Douglas and Lane counties. Probably just talk, because if the residents out there start figuring costs of a new courthouse and a separate county establishment they will conclude they had better remain as they are, inconvenient as it is with their county seats, Eugene and Roseburg, so far away. Perhaps the purpose of the gossip is to get some road concessions out of the county court.

The last of the coast counties to be created was Lincoln which was cut off from Benton county in 1893. The other coast counties are very old: Clatsop dates from 1844, Coos and Tillamook from 1853, Curry from 1855. The time is past for creating new counties unless or until there is a great increase in taxable wealth and in population. Improved highways and communications lines makes large counties more practical, although it must be hard to govern satisfactorily counties which stretch from the Cascades to the Pacific ocean as do Lane and Douglas.

For weeks the Townsend Weekly has been telling how close it was to having enough signers to get the Townsend bill out on the floor of the house for a vote. At the last it lacked one vote, so the bill died with the session. Probably most of the signers were glad they weren't put on the spot by having the bill actually come up for a vote. They know the bill is screwball, but want to play along with Townsends for their votes.

Editorial Comment

BRIBING CONVERTS

Myron C. Taylor, President Roosevelt's special envoy to the Vatican, has appealed to the American public to open its purse to the Italian people to prevent them from going into communism.

We believe this is based on a misinterpretation of the reason America is in the war and also of the capacity of the American people to satisfy unlimited desires.

The United States is at war because its national existence was threatened by the German brand of fascism and its Italian auxiliary. We have dispelled the Italian threat and, with a hard fight ahead, shall dispel the German threat.

The United States did not enter the war to determine the political beliefs of Europe. We doubt the capacity of the American people to buy off communism in Europe. We also doubt their ambition to do any such thing.

There are 46,000,000 Italians and if we would give them \$1000 apiece no doubt they would become conservatives and remain so until they spent the money or the cleverer ones among them got it. That would cost \$46,000,000,000 for our first experiment in making political conversions at the paymaster's window.—San Francisco Chronicle.

NAVY SPECIALIST

Congressman James Mott, who was here Sunday and Monday on an official visit to Klamath's two navy installations—the marine barracks and the navy air station—is the dean of Oregon's congressional delegation.

The death of Senator McNary last year made Mott the oldest member of the delegation in point of service. He began his congressional career, as representative of the first (northwestern Oregon) district, in 1923 succeeding Willis Hawley.

Prior to going into congress, Mott was Oregon corporation commissioner under Gov. Julius Meier, and won widespread attention in connection with the investigation and liquidation of several shabby building and savings and loan associations.

In congress, Mott has made navy affairs a specialty, and in the new congress will be the ranking republican member of the naval affairs committee, which carries with it such heavy duties as passing upon every property acquisition proposed by the navy. He is a member of the naval group which will tour South Pacific bases in January and February.

The visit of Congressman Mott to Klamath Falls this week gave him a first-hand view of two of the navy's major installations in Oregon. His aid was enlisted in behalf of the housing problem here, and his interest and knowledge should be helpful in connection with future navy activities and developments in the Klamath Falls area.—Klamath Falls Herald-News.

Builder of the West

One of the great builders of the west was here this week for the Oregon Reclamation congress, yet a man whose name does not clutter up the headlines very much. He is Frank A. Banks, director for region No. 1 of the U. S. reclamation bureau. Born and educated in the state of Maine, virtually all of his professional career as an engineer has been with the reclamation service. In fact, his connection with this work extends over nearly the whole life of the bureau. Starting in as an engineering aid on the lower Yellowstone project in Montana in 1906, Banks has progressed to his present position. Among the great dams the construction of which he has supervised are the American Falls dam on the Snake river in Idaho, the Owyhee dam in Oregon, and the Grand Coulee dam on the Columbia in Washington. Banks is project engineer for the whole Grand Coulee project and makes his home at Coulee Dam.

During this period his salary has always been the modest competence which government pays to its professional employees. He has seen engineers and contractors in private enterprise pile up fortunes while he ground along at the government stipend. He finds his great satisfaction in the transformation of arid western lands into productive farm lands sustaining farm homes and communities.

The Grand Coulee dam is the greatest engineering job of its kind in the history of mankind. That in itself might be regarded as a monument to Frank-Banks; but he doubtless finds more gratification in the contribution it makes through power, and will make through irrigation, for the welfare of mankind than he does in the dam as a massive work of masonry.

The west certainly owes a lot to Banks and to the men like him who for modest compensation spend their lives in public service.

Lift Another Ban

The ban has been raised on the Japanese-Americans but not on civilian flying along the coast. There have been many appeals filed for permitting civilians to fly again, but so far they have been of no avail. It is a deep mystery why our western airports cannot be used when a few miles inland that is permitted.

There is a real demand for removing this prohibition. Many private citizens hold licenses and would like to be able to fly their planes again. Flying instruction needs to be resumed in this area. Surplus planes are being offered for sale but flyers here are out as purchasers because they can't fly them in their home regions.

Maybe if aviation groups keep everlastingly at it they can convince the air command that private flying should again be permitted along the coastal strip.

New Head for C of C

Loyal Warner is an excellent choice for president of the chamber of commerce. He has proven his capacity in many civic endeavors and is familiar with the chamber work through his service on its board of directors.

To Carl Hogg, who has had the unusual distinction of serving for three terms as chamber head, goes the gratitude of the members and of the whole community for the outstanding job he has done. He has energized the chamber and the town,—and kept people happy while he was doing it.

Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Despite a slight lifting of the Allied news blackout, the situation on the American First army right wing front in Belgium remained to obscure at the end of the fourth day of the sustained Nazi counter-attack to warrant the conclusion that it had already run its course.

But pieced together, and based on negative rather than positive factors involved, the current battle reports indicate that while the enemy may not have been completely halted, his effort has been contained. The surprise effect is wearing off and there is no evidence that the enemy has been able to consolidate his four thrusts into a single dangerous salient or begin a wheeling movement northward.

An important fact in the present incomplete and scanty outline of the situation is American recapture of Monschau. The town just within the German border was vitally important to the Nazis for protection of the flank and rear of the indicated narrow salient reaching to the Stavelot area. Back in American hands it represents a potential counter-thrust jump-off site to lop that whole Stavelot salient off at its base.

Latest field reports indicate there has been no material change in the situation at the apex of the Nazi Stavelot salient since it cut the Aachen-Luxembourg highway and possibly the Liege-Luxembourg railway beyond it, both important communication laterals for quick shifting of Allied troops to danger points. Presumably it is upon the basis of the overrunning of one or both of those arteries Berlin founded its otherwise meaningless claim of having cut the First army in two in Belgium.

To effect a break-through of a critical nature, the German counter-attack must drive many miles farther westward, however, than it has yet reached, or wheel abruptly north of northwest to outflank Allied Aachen communications. The 15-mile gap between the Liege section of the Meuse and the west end of Hurtgen forest offers the only discernible threat to rear communications via Aachen with the Allied front on the Rhine.

But to wheel that way the attackers need far more elbow room than they have yet gained. A turn north from the Stavelot area up the Luxembourg-Aachen highway would merely expose another flank dangerously to Allied assault from the west.

Circumstances still warrant the conclusion that the German objective is strictly limited, that the maneuver relied wholly upon surprise for any chance of success, and that time is now running out against the foe with ever-increasing possibilities that another crippling German military disaster will be the ultimate result of so risky a venture.



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But They Can Celebrate Now

The Literary Guidepost

By John Selby

"CHINA TO ME," by Emily Hahn (Doubleday, Doran; \$3).

Emily Hahn's "China to Me" is the most accurate picture of an expatriate I have seen for a longtime. Except for the setting, which is China, the book might be a long letter home from one of the girls (or boys) who used to infest the Left Bank of dear old Paris, 15 or 20 years ago. There is exactly the same belief in the validity of one's own experience, however dull, that used to animate the boys at the Cafe Dome. There is the same series of parties, rather loose relationships, drinking bouts, and superficial judgments. And there is likewise the determination to write about such matters "frankly."

It doesn't add up to much in Miss Hahn's case.

Miss Hahn went to China in 1935; I believe. She thought, at first, she was merely stopping off on her way to Africa, but Shanghai "got" her. It was no time until, she admits candidly, the various sets were angling for her. There were parties by Americans and parties by British. There were also mixed parties and even some at which the mixture was Chinese and Occidental. Suddenly Miss Hahn decided this was the life for her. She must have been right.

She admits she was an egoist. She insists upon it, to be more accurate. But Miss Hahn's egotism took curious forms. For example, it led her to take a flat in the red light district, largely (I gather) because she thought it shocked people. It doesn't occur to her, so far as I could determine, that the people might have been either disinterested or doing a little leg-pulling. Miss Hahn is likewise frank (just as used to be the Left-Bankers) about her male friends, and here again the effort seems hardly worth the candle.

Miss Hahn did newspaper work, knew a great many Japanese after the occupation, chatters about the Chinese and all the polyglot men and buzzards of strangling China. She chatters about them as if they revolved about her, and this, I feel sure, is a misapprehension. And a bore.

Djerba, off Tunisia, is the largest island on the Mediterranean Barbary coast.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"Remember, now! Lead with your Lindy hop, feint with a shag and then cross with the boogie-woogie!"

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 19—Queer doings have taken the stage here.

Mr. Roosevelt did not veto the bill preventing another 1 and 1 per cent hike for worker and management in social security taxes. A veto message had been written for him by his social security board. Assist. President James Byrnes tipped congressmen definitely the veto would come.

The average stereotyped interpretation is that the president is getting somewhat more conservative. I do not think so. Congress was ready to pass the bill over a veto, had the votes in line. The president could not stop it. His action, therefore, simply implies he has reached the age where he is not interested in provoking losing fights (or at least this one), for political purposes only.

Those who think he has gone conservative on social security will be dismayed next month when he sets forth a CIO-ish program for its radical expansion.

But the queerest of all new goings-on is the anti-administration, revolt of the Guffey-Pepper new dealers, resisting Mr. Roosevelt's appointees to the Stettinius regime in the state department. The revolters are the ones who claimed, for 12 previous new deal years, that anyone was practically a fascist for questioning Mr. Roosevelt on anything.

A republican who has watched the progress of their unnatural conduct from across the aisle surmises they are trying to convince Mr. R. they won the election for him, and he must do as they say.

I doubt the full implication of this analysis as the men involved are not Borahs, lone wolves or of a strongly independent character.

Joe Guffey is a 69-year-old professional politician whose biography in the congressional directory (where congressmen generally set forth all the glories of their careers for constituents to see) is tersely this:

"Joseph F. Guffey, democrat, Pittsburgh, Pa., unmarried."

Just as his record is unmarred by marriage, it is also unmarred by any opposition to CIO. Ob-

viously Mr. Guffey is not burning with anything inside for the future world. To characterize him, I would say he is wholly at the service of CIO, to burn as it burns, to flicker as it flickers—and nothing else. That is where the votes are in Pennsylvania, or at least Guffey's votes.

The 44-year-old Pepper is a different proposition. This Florida reflects no glow from Florida, but mostly things from the newspaper "PM" in New York.

This fire does not burn or glow but erupts like a volcano. To say that it has a definite line or destination would require clairvoyance. It just throws rocks, lava and tongues of fire in the air amid impenetrable clouds of sulphurous smoke.

For instance, it and Pepper were bitter about Churchill when he tried to stop the communists in Greece. Yet they were just as bitter when he did the opposite and gave in to the communists in Poland. To say they are half communists (as many people do) is to state the matter too mildly, and inaccurately.

True, I judge they would rather have a communist regime than a bankers or British regime in Greece or anywhere. But, they do not hate riches, only certain riches.

Among the state department appointees none is very rich, except Will Clayton. You might surmise Clayton does not have the proper revulsion against his money. But then neither does Ickes, whom they love, and whose million or more never caused him the slightest nausea.

For years they have claimed the Roosevelt foreign policy was the mark of true internationalism and true liberalism, but they always hated Mr. Hull, a league of nations internationalist, who made the policy. Now they are opposing senate confirmation of the six internationalists who are on their side of the fence, yet a few days earlier they approved Stettinius, who recommended these men, although he is probably about as rich as Mr. Roosevelt.

One thing they think they are clear on is their "cause of the common man," but their stands generally favor the common man in the CIO unions, less than the common man in the AEL or the commonest man of all outside their small radical group. I do not think they know what they want.

Their group does not include even all the new dealers. Green of Rhode Island and Tunnell of Delaware are as newdealer as Guffey and Pepper, yet declined to go along with the queer revolt. Whatever its purposes therefore, the revolt will not succeed.

If, as the republican surmises, it is to prove to Mr. R. that confusion of this volcanic nature won the last election and not Mr. Roosevelt or the war situation which caused so many people opposing his policies to vote for him, the democratic senate is resisting it. And, if it represents CIO pressure through Guffey to needle Mr. Roosevelt gently in a losing fight, Mr. Roosevelt will furnish the answer in future actions. It seems to me he is getting tired and inconsiderate of pressure. After three terms, sensitivity to political needling as well as indulgence in useless fights for political propaganda effect, are apt to be less interesting, especially in wartime like these.

Nine times as much castor oil is used in industry as for medicinal purposes.

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT!

Wyoming 'Cowboy'
Will Ride Almost
Anything into Fight

WITH THE AEF IN GER-MANY, Dec. 13.—(Delayed)—(AP)—Sgt. Wilkie C. Bryten hails from Cody, Wyo., has been nicknamed "Cow-boy." He is willing to ride almost anything into battle—and since he has had three tanks shot out from under him, he sometimes has to do just that.

The "Cow-boy" lost his last iron steed at Gereonsweiler. Then he put on a little personal rodeo. It happened when three German tanks got the range of the General Sherman which the "Cowboy" commands.

The Sherman 3000 yards away was disabled and one crew member was wounded. Everybody abandoned the tank until the enemy stopped shelling it. Then "Cowboy" climbed back in and started firing the 75-mm. gun. But the range was too great.

So out he jumped and ran through 500 yards of small arms and artillery fire to a group of tank destroyers. He mounted the turret of the nearest and took over direction of its 90-mm. fire against the three enemy tanks. One was kayoed and the other two retreated.

Another iron horse roughrider is Sgt. Jerome Debenhardt of Milwaukee, a 30th Infantry doughboy. He was riding atop a light tank in a scrap and was pretty much exposed.

When the Germans shot at him with an anti-tank gun and a bazooka from a roadblock, Jerome vaulted off the tank and charged, firing as he ran. A short time later the roadblock and the dead Germans were removed and the tank continued on its way with Jerry still in the saddle.

If you can read German, there is no trouble in finding out where Col. Hinds, of Nashville, Tenn., commander of the 41st armored regiment is, as soon as you step into his command post.

A signboard which once read "Der rektor ist" now has been changed to "Der oberst ist" as this officer moved into a German schoolmaster's rooms. Below that unfinished sentence are several alternate notches in which a .45 cartridge currently indicates whether Col. Hinds is "beret," present for duty, or "schauer" or "aufklarung," on reconnaissance. If the bullet rests in a notch reading "unter-schupf," you'd better grab a fox-hole. That means "in deep shelter."

Names Make News Dept.—The town of Julich—now besieged for the tenth time in its bloody military history—dominates the main crossing of the river Roer on the old Roman road between Maastricht and Cologne. The first duke of Julich was the famous tenth century soldier, Gerhardt the first.

Outside the gates of Julich fate today has placed another Gerhardt—Maj. Gen. Charles Gerhardt—pretty much exposed.

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IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

of an administrative board, the board of geology and mineral industries. To deny Strayer a seat is just unthinkable.

The restriction on office-holding as set forth in the state constitution is as follows:

"No person holding a lucrative office or appointment under the United States or under this state shall be eligible to a seat in the legislative assembly..."

But the job of member of the state highway commission is not lucrative. It does not even carry a per diem as do some other boards and commissions.

In the past, the practice has varied. Lew Wallace was denied a seat in the house of representatives once because he was a member of the game-commission. But Walter E. Pearson sat as a senator while he was also a member of the board of higher education. So the practice has not been uniform.

As far as public policy goes there is general acquiescence in the opinion that no person occupying a high post in an administrative department should sit in the legislative assembly.

While the constitutional test is that of "lucrative" it is not the best policy for members of state boards to serve in the legislature where necessarily they become special pleaders for their departments. Also, the acceptance of a commission from a governor is often construed as putting the person under obliga-

tion to the executive, which is not wholesome.

This should be said in behalf of Chessman: he accepted both these offices only on the insistence of the people of his own community. Democrats as well as republicans gave him the nomination for senator, and when the highway appointment was offered him his local people urged him to take it. So Chessman is in the position of either retaining both offices to satisfy his home folks or dropping one to meet the valid criticism against a person holding two such offices. One thing is certain, however,—he will not quit the senate because of the needling which emanates from Mullanah county politicians.

If Chessman gives up either position (and if he doesn't this will be the first time a member of the highway commission has served at the same time as a legislator), I hope it is not the senatorship. He can do far more good for the state and for his home community as a member of the senate than he can as a member of the highway commission. The highway department is running smoothly, the highway program is well outlined, so a change of the commission would cause no serious interference with the functioning of this important department.

But the senate will have to wrestle with some serious and critical questions. It will need as many men as it can get of Chessman's qualifications. He can't be spared from the senate nearly so well as from the highway commission. So if he concludes not to continue to hold two public offices I trust he stays in the senate and yields the other appointive position to some one else.

Stevens

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