

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Truck Legislation

Prospects for getting through the legislature at the coming session the bill defeated in the last two sessions permitting longer and heavier trucks to operate on Oregon highways are regarded as brightened by word that the railroad lobby will not actively oppose the bill at this session.

Railroad attorneys evidently fear such opposition might add evidence for the case which Assistant Attorney General Berge is pressing in federal court against the railroads, charging them with violating the Sherman anti-trust act. While having the railroad lobby sitting in the bleachers and not playing on the field has no effect on the merits of the big truck bill, it would be a denial of truth to say such studied indifference will have no effect on the fate of the bill; for the railroad interests have been potent in defeating this legislation in the past.

Before the legislature passes this bill, however, it should first pass the bill applying a uniform and scientific schedule of fees for operation of trucks on highways. The studies show that the trucks are not paying now their fair share of the cost of the roads which are built and maintained by the public. The law also plays favorites among the classes of trucks.

Now is the time to establish the new, adequate and fair schedule which has been worked out by an interim committee after four years of intensive work. Further concessions to the trucking interests should not be made until equity in assessments for use of the highways is established.

It is conceivable that combinations of special interests may combine to defeat this new fee schedule. It would be politically smart as well as fully justified to get the trucking interests to assent to the new schedule before enacting the bill for bigger trucks.

## Breaking With Franco

Left wingers are demanding that the United States withdraw its recognition from Franco's government in Spain. The purpose clearly is to force Franco out of office. While that seems to us a desirable consummation the task is one for the people of Spain. We can't very well start bossing other nations around.

Granted that Franco was helpful to Hitler, the time is well past now when that help can be of value. It probably will be found that Switzerland and Sweden also were helpful to Hitler, but we can't very well break off relations with them.

If and when the old, elected republican government in Spain is reestablished in that country we can very properly give it prompt recognition; but there seems no present advantage to ourselves to terminate diplomatic relations with the Franco government which is "de facto" if not "de jure."

## Installment Refused

Finland, though badly knocked about by the war, was ready to pay the installment on its debt to the United States, but our government after some hesitation decided it couldn't accept the tender. It seems we are not on speaking terms with Finland, so it wouldn't do to unbind sufficiently to take her check on account. Finnish finances in this country are under a freeze and the treasury wasn't willing to thaw out the accounts enough to take the installment payment.

However we can credit Finland with good intentions. When the wars are all over then we can open shop and do business with Finland and take her money in payment of debt to us. The fact that Finland alone of our debtors stands ready to meet its obligation goes far to promote a kindly feeling toward the country which was caught in the vice of two powerful neighbors.

Finland has agreed to pay Russia \$300,000,000 as penalty for joining the nazis in an attempt to recover territory, and Finland will pay this, in gods, heavy as the burden will be.

## Editorial Comment

**FAIR DEAL**  
Senator-elect Wayne L. Morse of Oregon urges the Republican party to adopt a progressive labor policy to play its full role in American life. He says collective bargaining here to stay and can function better under Republican principles than under the sort of policy he has seen at work in Washington.

This is a subject on which few men in or out of public life are so well qualified to speak. Not a professional labor leader, but former dean of the University of Oregon law school, Dr. Morse, too recently to be forgotten, won the respect of both sides in bitter Pacific Coast labor disputes he refereed. He is a Republican who has served with distinction on the Democratic Administration's War Labor Board, and a candidate elected to the Senate with the support of the AFL and the CIO and conservatives even of a strong anti-labor tinge. To these discordant elements in his support, Dr. Morse declared he would offer no bargain, no program, except a fair deal.

The fair deal that won him support from such divergent elements, and not some formula of labor taffy, is what Morse is urging Republicans to make cardinal in the party's progressive labor policy. The fair deal is the basic philosophy on which the Republican party was established and the one upon which it has stood, with credit to itself and the nation in the advance of the United States to its world position.

There are frictions in the flexible social relations that characterize the American system. These are exaggerated by prejudiced extremists at both poles who prefer hostility to reasonable compromise. We do not believe, however, that either group will have its way. We do not believe that the extreme radical fringe will be able to destroy the American system. Neither do we think their extreme opposites are going to eradicate collective bargaining in principle or practice, or halt organized labor's legitimate rights or its legitimate will to share more fully in the American economy.

We believe with Morse that the Republican party must sincerely take a progressive attitude on labor if it is to play its role, and further that the Republican principle is vital if American ideals are to live and prosper.—San Francisco Chronicle.

## Hitler Speaking?

Adolf Hitler broke a five months radio silence when he addressed the German people at the year's end. So altered was his oratorical style, however, that informed listeners, like Louis P. Lochner, former head of the AP bureau at Berlin, has his doubts whether the speaker was the genuine Adolf. If he was, Lochner says, Hitler is a greatly changed man. Perhaps when recordings are compared with former authentic speeches by Hitler critics will find altered enunciation or inflection to reinforce their doubts, as did those who measured the ears of Hitler pictures and concluded one was ersatz (the picture, not the ear).

While the speculation has more point than the still-surviving argument as to who wrote Shakespeare's plays, the fact remains that Hitler still is the central motif of German leadership. His name alone still evokes the sacrifice which the German people are now called on to endure. In effect the people and the Hitler thesis of world power or downfall are now one, only the issue now is the elemental one of survival as a nation.

Recent events have proven that the leadership in Germany has hardened the people for supreme effort, which the demands for unconditional surrender and plans for carving of German territory have strengthened. Hitler remains the symbol of loyalty and whether the radio speaker is true or false, the Hitler symbol still has potency in the reich.

## Wreck Near Ogden

The west was terribly shocked to hear of the Southern Pacific wreck near Ogden where over 50 were killed and some 60 injured early Sunday morning. It is one of the worst railroad wrecks in the history of the west. The news account gives the familiar report that "railroad officials refused to hazard a guess as to the cause of the accident but ordered an immediate investigation."

The details appear to resemble closely those of a similar bad wreck several months ago on the C & E I Ry near Terre Haute, Ind. In the fog the fast-moving train crashed into the more slowly moving train ahead. But fogs are common in train operation; and the questions arise over why the rear train ran by the block signal, and why the engineer failed to see on the open causeway over waters of Salt lake the lights of the train ahead.

Granted that the fog obscured the vision, what is to prevent similar wrecks on foggy nights? Unless and until railroads adopt automatic train controls such wrecks will continue to occur when the human factor wavers.

Why must this slaughter go on? When will the interstate commerce commission wake up and require installation of modern safety controls using the late discoveries of electricity? Surely a beginning can be made even in wartime.

One would think, too, that the railroads would see the necessity and the economy of applying the latest and best controls to prevent collisions. Clearly, the lesson of Terre Haute was not learned.

## Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

The time lag imposed by the Allies on revelation of developments in the battle of the Belgian bulge continues to mask the exact situation.

But there seems little doubt in view of a belated report of an additional six mile American advance west of Bastogne, however, that an enemy retreat from the dangerous western loop of the bulge to escape entrapment is in progress.

While the direction or width of the new Third Army forward surge in the St. Hubert area is not indicated, a six mile advance there would certainly put American forces astride a considerable section of the Bastogne-Marche highway. It also probably would restore an important section of the Liege-Rochefort-Arlon railway to Allied use. It would virtually close the gap between their army forces in the south and First Army division on the north of the Bastogne-Manhay waistline position, splitting the German bulge through the middle.

With that advance the original corridor carved out by Patton's men to rescue the gallant garrison of Bastogne must have been eliminated. The line so far as it can be traced has been flattened out on the southwestern angle of the German bulge to such an extent that enemy hopes of regaining possession of the town can be but slight.

Nazi failure to take Bastogne from its American garrison marked the turning point in the German counter-attack. Bastogne is the communications key to the whole center area of the bulge. Without it, the German commander's hope of reaching the Meuse valley either to the west or to the north on a scale to force American evacuation of the Aachen-Roer bulge into Germany was doomed to failure once the shock of surprise had passed and General Eisenhower had regrouped his armies.

Loss of the western loop of the Belgian would convert the German foothold into a relative shallow dent but one sufficiently wide at its base line to make it a difficult job to reduce it and throw the foe back behind German frontiers. There are indications in some front line dispatches that despite the progress of Patton's troops, Allied prospects for turning the Nazi gamble offensive into the worst German defeat in the west are waning. These has been little for several days to indicate any substantial American gains on either the north or south "shoulder" positions at the eastern base of the bulge.

In the light of the situation in Belgium, reported multiple Nazi counter-attacks in some strength both east and west of the Blicke anchorage of the old French Maginot line in the Karlsruhe frontier angle to the south look like a diversionary move.

The Blicke attacks probably are aimed at forcing return of some part of the Third Army to the Saar area, thus relieving pressure on the southern face of the Belgian bulge.

That the enemy has the means to mount a new major offensive effort in the Blicke region as front line advice suggests seems highly doubtful. However, Nazi leadership cannot doubt in any event that it has already succeeded in stalemating the Allied Saar basin offensive indefinitely.



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## Still Waiting



(Continued From Page 1)

a meeting of Women of Rotary a few weeks ago when the Rev. David Nielsen discussed the return of Japanese-Americans to this coast, a subject which aroused her interest.

Loyal to the cause of woman suffrage, Mrs. Bishop took the lead in encouraging women to become interested in politics when the right to vote was extended to them. For a long time she conducted a study class on political questions for Salem women.

Mrs. Bishop held a lifelong interest in woolen manufacturing as was natural, for her father had been a weaver in England and became a manufacturer here. She encouraged the Bishop family to engage in woolen manufacturing, and assisted with her money and counsel.

There was one rule which Mrs. Bishop had for the family which is quite revealing: each member of the household must have a job of work to do on Monday morning. Even after her sons were grown and away from home she used to remind them to have their work laid out for Monday morning. Her idea evidently was that to start the week right was to end the week right, with work performed. She had the organizing faculty and the will power to see things through, and sought to inculcate similar qualities in her sons.

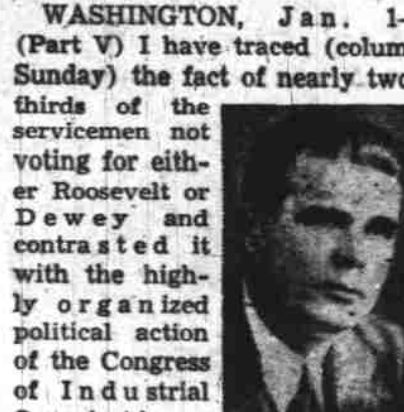
Mr. and Mrs. Bishop were very generous with all good works. They helped many people personally, and no worthy philanthropy of the community went unaided by them. Mrs. Bishop continued her own liberal support of welfare agencies and took an interest in their work.

The town seems poorer in its leadership with Mr. and Mrs. Bishop gone. Probably never will there be a couple just like them. But other and younger hands must take over the community tasks which they shared so long. That is the urgent "Monday job of work" for those who now mourn the passing of Mrs. Bishop.

Costa Rica passed a social security law in 1943.

## News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON  
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Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1—(Part V) I have traced (column Sunday) the fact of nearly two-thirds of the servicemen not voting for either Roosevelt or Dewey and contrasted it with the highly organized political action of the Congress of Industrial Organizations and its new theory of freedom as being organized control of the individual through unions and federalized power. The analysis is an effort to bring into the light for plain discussion the apprehensions evident here as to where this country is going, domestically and internationally.

There was great fear of fascism in the country before our war victory became visibly probable. Fascism is a dictatorship by right-wing elements, conservatives. It was evolved by Mussolini and perfected by Hitler as the only means of combating communism which was a dictatorship by the left-wing elements.

They had the same methods and ideals, believing freedom to be the organization of the individual to the service of the state, contrary to the old democratic basic principle which held that freedom is individual liberty.

Neither represented the yearning of any great body of the people. They were conceived at the top and imposed on the people. They were revolutions in which highly organized minorities got control of the people, the bulk of whom are not and cannot be expert in politics.

They did not come from elections, yet they adhere to the system of elections. Both Hitler and Stalin held elections, generally winning them 100 to 1 because the people dared not vote any other way, unless they wanted to be killed or ruined. To make their living, the people had to vote the way in which the highly organized minority at the top told them to vote.

Even so, no dictator has been able to maintain himself in office without periodic purges to murder and suppress the opposition. In any kind of a political system, opposition always will arise.

Now no important segment of our people want either fascism or communism. Yet there is a very popular movement for the

basic principle, denying the democratic concept of individual liberty as being a good thing, and interpreting freedom just as the fascists and communists do.

Where we seem to be heading in all this is toward a new form of a capitalistic republic controlled politically and economically by the unions.

But is it possible to have that? Can you have capitalism and union control? Can you maintain democracy under union control?

If you have the union wage class in economic control, it would make all capitalism work toward its ends—higher and higher wages which would force higher and higher prices with less and less profits, incentive, private capital. It could not last any more than a controlled capitalism by business could last.

From the political side, unquestionably the great bulk of the people who pay the prices and the wages would not long stand for it.

Once you accept the basic new idea of freedom as meaning federal control, you cannot have either capitalism or democracy dominated by any group or class. It could not work. Only a strictly judicial type of government, dispassionately maintaining the interests of the whole, could make both ends meet economically.

But is it politically possible to have dispassionate government this country of such highly organized minorities?

I hope no one will think this analysis has a political, critical or propaganda intent. I firmly believe no one can stop this current trend of union political action, except the union leaders, and I think they will—unintentionally—by excessive zeal in their own behalf.

As to our future form of government, the facts of Europe show surface forms do not mean much. You can have elections, even a reichstag, call yourself a republic (as Russia does), and still have dictatorship by the right or left. The true difference between those ways and ours to date has been that we allowed political opposition, and they did not. This is the real dividing line.

Democracy dies when genuine political opposition to the party in power dies, is murdered or suppressed. This is the test of whether individual liberty exists.

Call your state or movement by whatever pretty name you think will be enticing to the great bulk of people who have insufficient time from their daily living to keep up on the fine points of political matters, and can be made to believe practically anything by highly organized propaganda methods of interested experts. Your state will have real freedom only as long as a chance is held out to opposition to gain control by peaceful means.

When that chance is closed, fascist or communist methods come into play naturally, indeed cannot be avoided. These unwanted forces will come into action in this country, only as opposition dies, if elections become useless, if any one party in power at any time (democratic or republican) cannot be beaten.

## Portland Has Second Driest Year in 1944

PORTLAND, Jan. 1—(AP)—Portland had its second driest year in 1944, with only 27.08 inches of rainfall—14.70 inches less than normal. All-time low for precipitation was 1929, with 26.11 inches. Last month was the driest December since 1976.

Kenneth L. Dixon AT THE FRONT! Yankee Defenders Solve Mystery of 'Phantom Tanks'

IN BELGIUM, Dec. 28—(Delayed)—Every day's circuit on this critical front produces many little dramas about the doughboys on defense.

Here was a four-star mystery. The outfit commanded by Lt. Pierre M. Stepanian of Newton, Mass., was being fired on directly by tanks. Kenneth L. Dixon The question was: "Where were the tanks?"

They could see everything in front of them. That's why the Germans had been unable to move those 41 hulls of wrecked, burned out tanks and assault guns. Huddled out there in the snow-covered no-man's-land, their steel guts were cold and empty. They provided grim evidence of how well the doughboys had been able to see that terrain every time the enemy panzers struck.

The wind drew a freezing curtain back and forth. Darkness settled and all during that night direct fire came from the "phantom tanks" somewhere out ahead, almost at point-blank range—an eerie barrage.

Next morning, an unidentified soldier had a brainstorm. Rearing cautiously out of his foxhole, he stared across the clearing as the dawn's fog lifted. It looked just like it did the day before—or did it?

"Hey!" he yelled suddenly, "count those tanks again!"

Sure enough, there now were 43. All looked alike, covered with snow, but the two which

## The Literary Guidepost

By John Selby

"THE LAND OF THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE," by Alexander Nazarov (Lippincott, 87).

I had read a third of Alexander Nazarov's "The Land of the Russian People" before I realized it was intended for the child mind. I was liking it, too.

Apparently Mr. Nazarov's book is part of a series designed to introduce the young people of the earth, and certainly the numerous peoples gathered under the Soviet banner, take some introductory. The author does it with verve, and also with impartiality. Possibly a rabid White Russian might object because Mr. Nazarov does not accuse the present Russian regime of barbarity; perhaps an equally rabid Red Russian might object because once in a while something good in the Tsarist regime is mentioned. Most of us will continue to believe him a middle of the road man, but an interesting one.

For one thing, he deliberately reverses the usual Russian grand tour, and I think it is a good idea. He pretends that he and his readers are entering Russia at Valdivostok, going west across Asia on the Trans-Siberian railroad through the great forests of Siberia, the trans-Ural industrial districts, the Volga plains to Moscow. Then he makes a feint to the North, admits that the young would find little of interest if they returned to Valdivostok that way, and instead takes them back through Kiev, the Crimea, the Caucasus, the bony deserts of Central Asia, and so to the Pacific again.

As Mr. Nazarov makes it, this is a wonderful tour. The preparation of his text was chiefly a matter of elimination; he has thrown away a thousand times as much as he has kept, and he has condensed the small remainder. But I think a young reader could come out of the book with an excellent idea of the amazing bound up in Greater Russia, of the philosophy which unites them, and of the way in which they live. The picture of Russia moving slowly, with creaking dignity, out of the age of the Boyars is especially well managed.

When you have filed your return, and the tax has been computed, the amount of your tax will then be compared with the actual amount of your payments. If your payments were less than the correct tax, you will pay the difference. If your payments were more than the correct tax, you will be entitled to have the overpayment refunded to you, or credited against your estimated tax for 1945, if any.

Your return should be filed with the collector of internal revenue in the district in which you have your legal residence or place of business. If you don't know the collector's address, inquire at your local postoffice.

## "THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



Copyright by United Features Syndicate, Inc. "I think it would be utterly foolish to make new resolutions, when I haven't even broken last year's yet!"

JEWELRY Craftsmanship  
Frankly... we're proud of the excellent jewelry manufacturing we are now doing for the people of Salem and vicinity! All of this work is done in our own store by our own craftsmen.  
A full guarantee goes with each job we do, whether it be setting a diamond, or overhauling a watch. If you have a jewelry problem... let us help you solve it!  
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