

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Oregon City Bridge

In a vigorous front page editorial the Oregon City Enterprise endorses a local proposal for widening the bridge over the Willamette river at that point, a proposal which upriver users of the bridge will endorse. While the McLoughlin boulevard and the new route through Oregon City takes most of the through traffic on highway 99-E, one likes occasionally to vary his route and go Oswego-way to or from Portland, which calls for crossing the river at West Linn-Oregon City.

The Enterprise is wrongly informed, however, in its criticism of the state highway commission for the narrowness of the present bridge. Says the Enterprise:

Constructed in 1922, when modern transportation had already begun, it has been a puzzle to many why a roadway of such narrow width—17 feet, 4 inches—was provided for a bridge that serves an arterial highway, connecting the state's metropolis and its capital. The super-highway now carries a heavy traffic but the west side artery is vastly important.

By and large the engineer staff of the highway commission has displayed judgment and foresight in the construction of highways and bridges during the last 25 years. Innumerable instances of "building for the future" are evident throughout Oregon's 52,738 miles of highway system.

An exceptional lack of foresight, however, was displayed in the planning of our suspension bridge and for this reason, coupled with the obvious need of an adequate bridge, the highway commission should readily accept the proposal as part of its huge post-war program. The Enterprise needs to brush up on its local history before it blames the highway department for the construction of its river bridge. The facts, as we gather them, are as follows: The Clackamas county court provided \$105,000 for constructing the bridge but specified the street where it should be located. The city of Oregon City required that a walk and an eight-foot driveway be left on each side of the approach street. Then on the bridge five-foot walkways had to be left to accommodate the considerable amount of foot traffic between West Linn and Oregon City. The highway department built just as wide a bridge as it could under these conditions.

Unless the city is willing to vacate the walks and driveways the only way a wider bridge could be built would be to widen the street by tearing down portions of the buildings bordering it.

We are informed, too, that the bridge could not be widened because of its type of construction. It is not a suspension bridge but an arch-type span bridge. "Widening the bridge," therefore, means widening the approach street and building a new bridge—which would constitute a "major operation." Having so recently expended so much money in constructing the new highway through Oregon City it is doubtful if the highway commission would feel justified in undertaking so costly a project anyways soon.

Taxing Municipal Bonds

Twenty years ago Secretary Mellon recommended that the exemption of income from state and municipal bonds from federal taxation be removed. Later secretaries of the treasury have made similar recommendations and at different times efforts have been made to get congress to enact such a measure. Each time the opposition has been too strong and the measure has failed.

Recently the commissioner of internal revenue made another approach by seeking to collect an income tax on interest received by an individual from bonds of the Port of New York

Editorial Comment

BACK HOME

Even now, more than 300 years after the Pilgrims, there is a feeling that New England is "back home." Its white churches and its Louisburg Square in a scurry of snow move some nostalgic spirit even in the Western or Southern who has never seen them, and Christmas carols on Beacon Hill are as they are in no other corner of America. For these are days when the minds of men go to national beginnings as well as personal living and dying, and that dark coast and snowy hinterland to the northeast face the Atlantic waste and what is on the other side just as they did when kings were oppressors and Hitler was not heard of.

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, mountain range and rocky or sandy beach, they are all "back home" to men at war whether they hail from New Orleans or Puget Sound, or happen to have been born somewhere in the long cold sweep of New England itself between Colebrook and the Canadian border. The Androscoquin, the Penobscot and the Kennebec swirl beneath their northern ice, names less known than Plymouth, Boston and New Bedford, but fitting into the outline of our national story. Tonight the remote reaches of Moosehead will lie under their cover of white, and somewhere across the sounding sea there are men who remember Greenville's general store and Lilly Bay and the streets of Bangor, Maine, and the crash of the waters in the thunder hole on the rocky coast at Bar Harbor. And in Belgium there is a colonel of a famous name who comes from the gentler Narragansett country in Rhode Island and knows the homes of Peacedale and Wickford and the ancient amenities of South County, where yellow corn meal still goes into jonnycake made according to the recipe of Phyllis, grandfather's never-to-be-forgotten cook.

These are the things of New England, as varied as a patchwork quilt and as unified in tradition and in purpose. Among them the little farms breed their cattle and raise their products and the industrial cities grind out their war machines and their millions of yards of textiles, some of which must be dyed in the blood of men from many states.

There the foundations were laid where men vote as they please and fight when freedom is assailed. There are many churches there of many designs, but the old white church is the symbol that represents them all. The qualities indigenous to New England are those of everywhere that men have always wanted built into their homes. And so when the men in the fighting line say it they may mean Passadena or they may mean Nashville but they also mean New England when they say "back home."—New York Times.

Authority. This approach, it is recalled, was the one which finally brought salaries of state and municipal employees under federal income taxation. The theory then used was that the Port of New York was an instrumentality of the state with a proprietary capacity and not one of the political functions of government; and that employees of the Port were not strictly speaking employees of government. This theory prevailed and its employees were taxed and immediately after all governmental employees were made subject both to federal and state income taxation.

In a recent decision of the federal supreme court however, the commissioner's position was not sustained and interest from the Port bonds was held to be exempt from federal taxes. The only relief for the treasury now lies in an act of congress.

There are substantial arguments on both sides of this question. Large sums of money are invested in state and municipal bonds because of their immunity from taxation both as to principal and interest. This cyclone cellar is used by persons of great wealth to escape the high taxes in the upper brackets of income. The treasury needs the revenue from this source, and wants to end the discrimination.

The opposition asserts that the actual realization to the treasury would be slight, and that taxing these bonds would result in higher interest rates on state and municipal bond issues which could be met only by higher taxes.

There is no doubt that the tax exemption feature gives a special advantage to municipal bonds, as is indicated by the interest rates on such bonds in comparison with federal non-excepts of similar maturity. The net result is that what is the federal government's loss is the local government's gain.

Pensions to War I Widows

In the closing weeks of the 78th congress a new pension bill was passed greatly broadening the conditions under which pensions to widows of veterans of the first world war may be paid. Heretofore such pensions would be paid only if:

1. The veteran died of a cause directly due to his war service,
2. He died of a cause not connected with his war service but had suffered some disability, no matter how small, during the war.

Under the new law the widow and children under 18 of a veteran of World War I can receive a pension without any condition as to cause of the veteran's death. Other conditions for the pension are: Veteran must have served at least 90 days and not have been dishonorably discharged; the widow, if she has no children, must not have an income of over \$1000 yearly, or if she has children, not over \$2500; if a woman marries a veteran after Dec. 15, 1914, she must live with him at least ten years before his death to be eligible for this pension.

Benefits under the act are: widow without children \$35 monthly; widow with one child \$45, and \$5 additional for each additional child up to a maximum of \$74 a month. Where there are surviving children but no widow the first child would receive \$18, two \$27, three \$36, and \$4 for each additional child under 18.

The veterans' administration expects to pay out nearly \$40,000,000 the first year under this liberalized law; but it is estimated that the total cost will run into billions, and that widows may be drawing pensions as late as 2080 A. D.

When the country starts paying pensions on a sizable scale on account of the second world war the total will run into huge figures, making a steadily increasing item in the national budget for years to come, a burden for generations yet unborn.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

For the first time since the battle of the Belgian bulge was started in mid-December by Nazis elsewhere in the global war tended to displace that conflict in American observer-interest.

Japanese broadcasts filled the air with graphic tales of the onset of the battle of Luzon in the Philippines. They told without other confirmation of massive American air and sea fleets battering at the Lingayen gulf approaches to the broad plains that lead southward to Manila bay.

Huge American troop and supply convoys also were reported by the Japanese to be converging toward the gulf for landing assaults.

Pending American confirmation these Nipponese accounts cannot be accepted at face value. They cover a significant sequence of developments leading up to American reinvasion of Luzon, even if they prove premature so far as actual landing operations or the sites picked for them are concerned. No thoughtful Japanese who heard those Tokyo accounts of relays of heavy American warcraft succeeding each other in sustained sea bombardment of Lingayen gulf shore defenses to supplement the raking American air attack could ignore that complication. No such massing of American sea and air strength and troop transports would be possible on the central western coast of Luzon while the Japanese fleet retained any real semblance of its former striking power.

Lingayen gulf lies all but in the shadow of the Japanese sea and air staging base, Formosa. To approach it with fleets and convoys of the size the Japanese reported would in the face of substantial enemy sea or air power based at Formosa invite disaster. It could not be risked unless American leadership was fully aware both of the strength and disposition of what remains of the Japanese fleet and utterly confident from previous experience of blotting out Formosa as an effective stationary plane carrier.

Previous American air forays over Lingayen gulf have disclosed the presence of these too much enemy merchant tonnage to doubt that Tokyo has been making every effort to strengthen the Luzon garrison. A Japanese intimation that it would take an American force of not less than 10 divisions to effect substantial lodgment there implies massed enemy land forces in the Lingayen area. But it is safe to say that General MacArthur from Philippine sources has far better information as to enemy dispositions on Luzon that he has chosen to reveal.



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Over the Wall

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—The fog in which we have been stumbling along toward a world peace organization is beginning to thin out.

The outline of certain events to come is becoming discernible.

True enough, the British press has taken to abusing American policies (no doubt for our criticism of their policy in Greece) and threatening to join the Russians against us, while the Russian press occasionally snaps at us also, and our own people look on confusedly as both the Russians and British are conniving against each other for power in post-war Europe.

Yet in this very confusion there lies a great clarity. It seems to me events obviously are shaping up this way: The administration plan is to stage a big three conference (Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin) for a final settlement of principles in a postwar club of nations, and then have the working diplomats draw up a charter for it, which will be ready in April, (they hope and expect).

This charter will pursue the Dumbarton Oaks line to a conclusion, and the current tendency, both of the administration and much of the American public at large, is to worry whether it can get through the senate, with the two-thirds majority which will be necessary.

Thus we are fretting about crossing a distant bridge, not only before we get to it, but even before we cross a longer bridge immediately ahead. The pending problem is to get a sound agreement on a charter, and the success or failure in laying this first bridge will automatically determine the result on the second bridge. The arrangement itself will determine whether the senate will accept it.

Thus we should be worrying now only about getting a good charter, yet this matter is little discussed.

Considerable fog around this immediate bridge has been dispelled by recent events, though not all.

Russia is taking military control throughout central Europe.

and her military occupation inevitably will result in the establishment of political regimes under her control directly or indirectly. The British are doing the same thing in Greece, Belgium and Holland.

France has largely been occupied militarily by us, but we are not exerting much political control, and the French are making certain arrangements with Russia. Joint Anglo-American influence prevails in Italy, but it is the British who are directing the choice of cabinet ministers or vetoing them.

The realistic point of this condition is that the Russian seizures are absolute, unquestioned (also completely under censorship as to news) while those controlled by the British are open, democratic in theory and subject to international bickering and constant controversy (even including shooting revolts).

Now these occupations are all being made under a purely military United Nations agreement supposedly made at Teheran, and later, by Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin.

Some criticism has been made that Mr. Roosevelt also must have concluded secret political agreements for division of spheres of influence, because of what has followed. I do not think so. It would not be necessary or advisable. Military occupation inevitably brings political domination.

The Russians have their idea of democracy which travels with their armies, and we have an entirely different one, which is not traveling at all. To date, any realist must conclude they are getting away with theirs; we are not doing so well.

By April, it seems to me, this process of dividing Europe will be an accomplished fact, an irrevocably fact accompli.

Will the Russians then come into the world club, or join club-like rule of a stable Europe maintained with the arms of the big three? I believe they will. They will then have what they want and naturally will desire a world organization plus our armies and the British to guarantee and preserve their gains forever, if possible.

In fact, I wonder if they did not prevent final agreement on the Dumbarton Oaks line, and delay the constantly-promised negotiations since then, in order to get what they could in Europe first.

The ideals of Dumbarton for

free determinations of people, might be embarrassing to the Lublin Polish recognition, etc., unless they got into those countries to stage the elections themselves. Their bargaining position with us certainly has been improved about 100 per cent by the delay they caused.

But will our people and the senate want a charter in April which perpetuates with arms the things they are now criticizing so severely in Europe? Will the administration want it? And what will we get out of it?

There are certain discernible answers to these questions authentically available here and I will report them tomorrow.

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

"BEYOND ALL FRONTS," by Max Jordan (Bruce, \$3).

The respectable, decent, liberty-loving German, popularly regarded by Allied peoples right now as an extremely rare bird, is reintroduced to us by today's author, Max Jordan. Born of German parents and educated in Europe, Jordan was a student in a German university in World War I. His book, incidentally, was published in Wisconsin, the state which voted against the late Wendell Willkie of "One World" fame.

The Germans whose names and records are cited constitute the real, abiding Germany Jordan believes. They formed the first battalions of the Underground. They disapproved of anti-Semitism, and are unaware even today of the full extent of the brutalities inflicted by German army and Gestapo in occupied areas.

One of Jordan's "good" Germans is Karl Goerdeler, Leipzig mayor hunted and once reported captured for his role in the "general's revolt." No doubt every instance is authentic in every syllable. The question is, how representative are these of Germany? While Jordan has some fresh information, his arguments were frequently heard in this country 10 or 15 years ago.

Jordan is particularly critical of the between-wars part played by France. He charges the French occupation of the Ruhr in 1923 was harmful to the young German democracy. That may be; but it is incorrect to leave readers with the impression that France's position was not strictly justified by the Versailles treaty, and unfair to condemn the occupation then but to complain because France did not fight to stop Hitler's reoccupation of the Rhineland.

Once upon a time Versailles was deplored as too severe. Jordan still holds that view, though most people regard that pact as magnanimous in comparison with treaties imposed by Germans in World War I.

Perhaps the least convincing paragraphs are those which dismiss the 1933 book-burning as a mere prank.

Your Federal Income Tax

No. 7
SURTAX EXEMPTIONS
FOR TAXPAYERS

In determining the amount of income tax you owe you are entitled to the benefit of a credit known as "surtax exemption." If you use your Withholding Receipt as a return, or if you file a short-form return on Form 1040, the benefit of the surtax exemption is allowed automatically through the use of a tax table provided by law. If you make a long-form on Form 1040, you should subtract this exemption from your net income before applying the surtax rates. There is a separate credit (or exemption) for each kind of tax. (Continued on page 8)

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT!

Charmed Pajamas
Bring Good Luck
To Yank Captain

IN BELGIUM, Jan. 6 (Delayed)—(AP)—That pair of pink and blue pajamas has done it again for Capt. Albert E. Milloy of Hattiesburg, Miss., a paratrooper. So it's about time to tell their story of charm.

It should be explained that the pajamas are charmed—not charming—although, on the other hand, I certainly have no intention of making any remarks about any paratrooper's wearing apparel. They may be charming to him, but that's strictly a personal matter.

Anyhow, Albert has fought this war for a couple of years in some half a dozen different lands which is Kenneth Dixon enough to make the ordinary guy slightly superstitious, if not more so. And paratroopers generally are considered somewhat extraordinary in the matter of living on luck.

A member of the 82nd airborne division, Captain Milloy now is helping buck back the German bulge into Belgium, which is where the most recent incident occurred—but that's getting ahead of the story.

Back in Fort Benning, Ga., in what now is known to members of the 82nd as "the old country," Albert received this pair of pajamas from Miss Frances Barron, a Hattiesburg girl who, according to Albert, has brown hair and "makes the average pinup girl look puny."

Came the morning when he was scheduled to make his first jump there. He overslept. Rudely awakened at the last minute, he pulled a pair of covers over his pajamas and, thus attired a short time later, he yelled, "Ger-onoim," and hit the silk.



Kenneth Dixon

The jump was successful. Not being one to crack such an obvious omen of good fortune in the teeth, Milloy promptly made the pajamas a permanent part of his jumping apparel.

Since then he has donned the pajamas before jumping into at least six countries including Sicily, Italy and Holland. He has spent 275 odd days in combat and has had more close calls than any other six men could be expected to survive. He gives the pajamas all the credit.

Shortly after the Salerno jump, a 155 mm shell struck squarely on the roof of his dugout. "It was a nice life while it lasted," groaned Albert to a sergeant lying alongside him in that split second as they awaited the blast. But it was a dud.

At the Anzio beachhead, the pajamas were frayed and worn, but still their magic worked. Three times there, Albert had hoses collapse on top of him from shelling and various things. His hair got mussed.

Another time, he was sitting at a command post when an armor-piercing shell came in one window and went out another without hurting him. Some say it even whisked a cigarette out of his mouth, but others say he dropped it.

Holland put another patch on the pajamas, but none on Albert.

Most of the time overseas, Captain Milloy commanded C company of the 504th which had the lowest casualty rate in the regiment. When he was transferred to another company, they begged him to leave his miraculous pajamas hanging in company C's orderly room.

Gently, but firmly, Albert explained that Frances had given those pajamas to him—and that he would as soon leave his right arm nailed to the wall as those

(Continued on page 8)

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page 1)

Oregon voters to reverse this oft-repeated decision. Sen. Coe A. McKenna, author of the last sales tax bill, is proposing an interim commission to study the tax question. It seems to me that the facts are well enough known for the legislature to act on tax matters without experts or interim commission.

On forestry matters Governor Snell shows an understanding of their importance. He recommends a revolving fund of \$100,000 for use of the forestry board on its acquisition program, and increase of the research appropriation to \$50,000. The former sum seems altogether too modest. On a proper forestry program for Oregon the state could afford to invest millions of dollars, and should not hesitate to do so. Every year of delay in reforesting cut-over and burned-over land postpones by a year the harvest of a new crop thereon. The limited research program at Oregon State college has not yet proven very fruitful of returns; but ought to be continued and revised.

Taking cognizance of mutterings over the operations of the liquor commission, particularly with regard to the purchase with Washington of two mid-western distilleries, Governor Snell requested the appointment of a legislative committee to investigate the commission's work, with impartial auditors to audit its books. In this recommendation the governor takes the initiative, being conscious of the political damage done Governor Langlie in the late election over this deal.

I think a financial audit will show that the state stands to profit richly by the deal. But a moral audit would not show the state in so good a light. It has always looked to me as though the state was overreaching in its greed for whiskey or for profits to enter into a distillery

The message was silent on such controversial questions as increase in state support for public schools, modification of the Walker plan of discounts on income taxes, entry of private firms into industrial insurance, and uniformity of fees charged trucks for road use, cocktail bars and \$60 pensions.

The governor's characteristic caution may have dictated silence at this stage of the game. However, he will be in his office all through the session and can communicate his views on these questions any time he so desires. He is leaving to the legislature itself the working out of such laws as seem to the members desirable at this time.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



STEVENS DIAMONDS WATCHES JEWELRY

Exquisite Diamond Rings!

You choose with confidence when you make your selection at Stevens & Son!

At Stevens & Son you'll find creations in Diamond Rings for all occasions brilliantly set in attractive mountings for lasting pleasure!

Diamonds Re-set While You Wait

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