

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## New University President

After a year's search the state board of higher education has found a man to serve as president of the state university. This was not an easy job. The brilliant record made by Dr. Donald M. Erb gave them a mark to shoot at, and the board would not be satisfied with run-of-mine material. In Dr. Harry K. Newburn it is satisfied it has found a president who can measure up to the responsibilities and the opportunities of president of the university.

Scanning the field the board found not a host of qualified men who were applicants for the position. The salary of \$7500 is not so attractive as once it was, because of the general rise in university salaries. The position is a bit circumscribed because it is subordinate to the chancellor's office. So it was not an easy matter to get a top-flight man. The board no doubt considers itself fortunate that Dr. Newburn is willing to accept the Oregon position. Our earlier rumor was to the effect that he had declined.

Dr. Newburn comes to university administration through the training school of public school education. After graduating from a teachers' college in Macomb, Ill., he was in public school work in Illinois for five years. His graduate degrees are from the University of Iowa where he rose to the rank of dean of the college of liberal arts. This background of preparation in various levels of education should prove valuable in his new position, for the university is closely related to the general school system of the state.

Dr. Newburn comes at an important moment in higher education, when colleges and universities will get the backward flow from war, when curricula must be adapted to veteran groups at the same time it serves youth coming up from high school. He comes when Oregon's higher institutions stand high in public favor, so he will have abundant opportunity to release his capacities for leadership in a widening field.

## Employment Service

When, back in 1941 or 2, the employment offices were taken over by the federal government, the states put a tag on them: "Return when war is over." The federal government had put up most of the money for running the offices, but the states took pride in operating them. Since the take-over the states have not let the federal government forget that the deal was a loan and not a permanent grant. Governors' conferences have reiterated the intention of the states to ask for return of the employment offices. Governor Snell in his message took the same position.

Doubtless the reiteration is due to knowledge of the acquisitive propensities of the federal government and is prompted by doubt that the latter will ever yield control of these offices. The protesting governors will find their fears confirmed in this passage from President Roosevelt's last budget message:

To promote employment opportunities and to assure the proper occupational adjustment of returning veterans and war workers, a strong, integrated system of public employment offices is a basic necessity. We can best accomplish this objective by the establishment, through permanent legislation, of an effective national employment service with adequate coverage throughout the nation. For the re-conversion period we should provide assistance for travel and retraining of war workers.

## Labor Bills for Oregon

It wasn't many months ago that the Oregon Labor Press was berating the Wagner act and the national labor relations board operating under it and going so far as to favor the act's repeal. Now S. Eugene Allen, editor of the OLP comes up to Salem with a state "little Wagner" act which he hands to the senate labor and industries committee. Whether the former expression was written in a mood of temporary disgust because the CIO had put over some deal with NLRB, or whether the later submission of the state bill is "submission" to the opinion of higher-ups in the labor movement we cannot say. But here it is, a baby Wagner act for Oregon. Take it or leave it.

The five-bill series includes other proposals than compelling employers to recognize and negotiate with labor organizations. There are such things as "equal pay for equal work" for women; right of collective bargaining for public employees, with time and a half for all over 40 hours weekly (firemen 48 hours). Allen, who switched his registration to republican prior to the last election, is surely putting his new party comrades who control the legislature, up against the gun on labor legislation.

Something tells us the upstate agrarians will not like these bills—especially the time and a half for over 40 hours!

## Editorial Comment

### COLD VACCINES

None of the so-called vaccines for the prevention of the common cold has been proved to be of any value, and none can be recommended for industrial groups or for individuals, and their uncontrolled use should be discouraged. That was a statement made by the Council of Pharmacy, in a recent article in the American Medical Journal, commenting on the report of the council, the Journal says:

"In spite of the overwhelming evidence on the subject, some pharmaceutical firms continue to engage actively in the promotion and sale of various 'vaccines' for the prevention of colds. The air waves and the drug counters are crowded with so-called preventives or cures of these types, which do not serve any recognized purpose other than to lighten the public purse."

In the same issue of the Journal there is a report by a group of physicians to the effect that physical fitness tests given AAF cadets recovered from acute uncomplicated upper respiratory disease to determine if it was safe and beneficial for them to participate in physical training programs, reveal that they could do so earlier than had been commonly believed and that the participation reduced the time of hospitalization. — Corvallis Gazette-Times.

## Death Held Throttle

A pathologist testified at the inquiry into the causes of the disastrous wreck on the Southern Pacific near Ogden on December 31 that the engineer of the speeding mail train which crashed into the Pacific Limited ahead was dead of a heart attack before the crash. Here indeed was "human failure" which resulted in the death of 50 others.

The catastrophe and its cause lend support to our contention that better automatic controls are needed in train operation. As we understand there are devices which stop a train when it passes a stop signal. If not, surely the discoveries of radar can be adapted to railroad safety.

The wreck calls another thing to mind: the strain which is on railway trainmen today. This dead engineer was 64 years old. Not too old, to be sure; but was he, like many other trainmen, being pushed to the limit because of the demands for transportation? The heavy burden of work is wearing out men as well as machines. This time death held the throttle and bore a weapon of death into sleeping passengers. In spite of pressures work must be kept within limits of endurance.

## 'GI Joe' Tabu

It's to the ashen with the label "GI Joe." The soldiers resent the term, says William S. White, AP correspondent fresh back from Europe. Stars and Stripes, the army newspaper, has a desk rule against use of GI Joe. The preferred reference is to Yanks, Americans or soldiers. In the first world war "doughboys" was the common expression. It isn't used much now though occasionally one notes the modification "doughfeet."

Even more objectionable is for the stay-at-home to try to speak for the men in the service. It got to be a habit: "GI Joe demands this," or "GI Joe won't stand for that when he gets back." Congressman Clare Booth Luce blew the fuse on that in her speech at the republican national convention. Since then there has been less inclination to act as spokesmen for the 11 million men and women in service.

The way we feel is, if the soldiers don't like the GI Joe stuff, out it goes. The least papers can do is to spare their feelings.

## Freeway and Free Enterprise

Another "freeway" bill has been introduced in the legislature. Who will object to it? The "little fellows," those who run the roadside businesses, the service stations, tourist camps, vending stands; and those who own real estate bordering main road rights-of-way. They see in giving the highway commission control to determine points of ingress and egress and setbacks of structures interference with their private business. They might agree in theory that roadways free of business fringes are more attractive and more appealing to tourists; but business is business, and they fear the shutting off of opportunities for men in small business. Thus there is a "human" side to the contention as well as an aesthetic side.

## Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

With the Nazi Belgian bulge all but flattened out and British and American armies on both sides of it on the offensive, Moscow now discloses a Red army attack of tidal wave proportions rolling across the plain of Poland.

The east-west ultimate squeeze play long ago projected at Tehran seems to be taking shape at last. How long it will take to throttle Germany into submission is beyond calculation, but there is new and grim warning to the foe of the purpose behind it.

"The war will go on until unconditional surrender has been obtained," Prime Minister Churchill told parliamentary hecklers.

Moscow left no doubt of the tremendous scope of the twin attacks launched over the weekend in Poland. That the whole German defense front from the north flank of the Carpathians to Warsaw and beyond is under concerted Red army pressure is Nazi-revealed. Russian bulletins covered two main thrusts boring in beyond the Vistula.

In the west front line, reports estimate that the Nazi bulge driven more than 40 miles deep into Belgium at high cost has been cut to a bare 15 miles. Less than 400 square miles of the maximum of 2000 the enemy once held there remain in his hands.

By official American estimates that lean heavily toward conservatism it cost the Germans 90,000 men, more than twice American losses, to gain nothing but a brief delay in the Allied winter offensive.

That the respite will be brief at best and may already be over is indicated by the British attack in Holland on the Meuse sector and the American counter thrust down the Moselle valley approaching the Nazi Siegfried line anchorage of Trier. The scope of neither the Meuse nor the Moselle operation is yet clear.

The surprise surge down the Moselle valley by the right wing of the American Third army posted south of the Belgian bulge may also be primarily a feeler to test enemy dispositions. Its initial progress indicates relative enemy weakness at that point.



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## Power to Act News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON  
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The government is sponsoring a food scare. New York's Mayor LaGuardia has been calling for meatless days. Local rationing boards are putting out to their newspapers around the country alarming predictions of scarcities. Some people are concluding it is just the usual government fright campaign to get a desired popular reaction, but this time it is real.

Hard as this may be for the average maidless housewife in the kitchen to believe, after all the stuff she has been hearing about great food stockpiles in government hoarding to feed the world, and large reserves bought up by the army and navy, the truth is we could lose this war on the food front if we do not have good crop weather this spring.

Behind the tightening condition is an explanation the government is not telling, namely that it mismanaged its food supplies situation last year and is now reaping the harvest of its mistakes.

Look at poultry. The government last summer thought it was faced with an over-supply, expected the war to be won swiftly in France, and discouraged poultry raisers from hatching eggs. That now proves to have been very bad judgment, and there is a shortage of poultry.

In hogs, the farmers were similarly scared of an over-supply, and reduced their feeder schedule upon government advice. We are now short on pork.

The sheep feeders ran into cold weather at lambing time last year, and we have a shortage of lamb.

Beef has been handled so sloppily as to discourage production. Last summer both the OPA and WFA (war food administration) promised no ceiling price would be put on cattle, but one is now about to be applied.

An investigator went out to the Midwest to hold hearings and reported the farmers were for a \$17.50 ceiling. This proved to be false. Feeder stock had been bought for around \$18 to put on 200 to 400 additional

units, and a \$17.50 ceiling would have meant ruination of this production process. So now the ceiling will be upped to \$18 so as not to discourage the production of this additional meat.

But in order that the price to the consumer not be raised, the government is to pay the packers an additional \$1 per 100 pounds subsidy out of the treasury, and the taxpayers' pocket-books (a secret price increase under which those who pay taxes actually pay a portion of the price on steaks bought by everyone).

All this retracing and self-reputation by the government officials naturally tended to demoralize the cattle industry and scare off production.

Worse than this, the war manpower commission is threatening to draft farm help and the war production board is cutting down or out the allocations for production of new farm machinery.

The local draft boards in farm communities, however, have shown some signs of revolting against drafting more farm help, and frankly, I doubt that WMC orders will be obeyed.

Yet it is clear that farm help, new machinery, and parts for repairs will be scarcer than last year. If spring weather is bad, we will be in trouble. As for large reserves, we simply do not have them in any line.

The department of agriculture is now out holding meetings to get the farmers to increase planting, and extension directors are doing good constructive work, but the OPA, WFA, and the other government bureaus are doing nothing to extend production that I can see.

Indeed, there is constant quarreling and bickering on policy between OPA and WFA which is somewhat demoralizing, and Coordinator Vinson's office is full of left-wing boys who always have sociology uppermost in mind.

It is evident then that this new food scare has more validity behind it than in former cases, although the wrong reasons are being offered by the administration, naturally enough, in order to cover its old mistakes. "People are eating more," they say, for instance. I doubt that this is true.

The Germans seem to have captured a large quantity of our canned goods in their Belgian smash, and there is some black

market seepage corruption from army supplies in France, but it is hard to believe the official excuse that a soldier in France eats more than in the United States. Lend lease is taking no more, and, indeed, our own supply situation is preventing us from living up to commitments.

I asked food authorities why it is that the government has always proved to be wrong in its food planning activities. The law of averages should make it right once in a while, even if they did not try. The answer I got was this:

"At the start of the war, the best brains in both business and agriculture came in here to help work out our war problems. These men have nearly all returned to private endeavor, some disgusted. Remaining here are the sociology boys, the left leaners, without much ability, who yearn for a better world more than they strive to make this one work right."

## The Safety Valve LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

### A LOSING GAME

To the Editor: We read in the paper where a professional gambler has just been given 12 1/2 years in the penitentiary for manslaughter. Seems to me some of these good men in the legislature would take this gambling racket apart and make these men work at something essential instead of preying on hard working men. I also read this in the Statesman, where Mr. Lyle Jantz of the Better Business Bureau of Portland lectured before the Kiwanis club in Salem about these men all set to get the working men's bonds after the war. They are getting them right now and every dime they can lay their hands on. These workers will be thrown on relief when work gets scarce and Mr. Jantz has sounded the right warning. They are holding up the war effort also, by keeping

workers up at night playing a losing game.

Mrs. F. W. Allen, Portland.

## LITERARY GUIDEPOST

By W. G. ROGERS

"THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE WAR," in two volumes, by Waverly Root (Scribner's, \$10).

The secret history of this war is no longer secret history, for Root has told us in 1200 pages plus an exhaustive index. Root spent two years on the writing, and they followed many years of firsthand observation. His was a mammoth effort and worth every minute of it; you'll find the reading worth every minute, and no effort at all.

Root comes up with two recommendations: Never forgive those who have helped the enemy or compromised with him, and never temporize with democratic principles. He has a vast fund of incidents showing not only that the axis was ruthless but that the democracies were stupid or at least indifferent to their noble heritage, and in some respects they are still being stupid.

If the work is a little unbalanced, as the author admits it may be, that presumably is because he has more information about some matters than about others; anyway, only time will drop the circumstances of the last momentous decade into proper perspective.

Root's point of view may be illustrated best by his dismay at the U. S. state department's handling of the French situation. He can't see any justification for accepting Franco of Spain but rejecting de Gaulle of France. He presents some most damaging evidence against Gen. Giraud.

It is safe to assume that most of his facts are dependable. Lib-

Kenneth L. Dixon  
AT THE FRONT  
Musicians Become Medics to Salvage Wounded Yanks

ON THE BELGIAN FRONT, Jan. 5—(Delayed)—(F)—A bunch of musicians have turned medics up here in the cold, snow-covered Ardennes forest, and some of America's better known bandmen are playing mercy instruments in a frontline medical experiment.

They are in the 84th division's new "convalescent center" which sends slightly wounded doughboys back into action within 10 days—instead of the month or six weeks it would normally require.

It's still an experiment but during the month we've had the center in operation we've sent more than 35 per cent of our total casualties back into action within 10 days," said Maj. Dixon J. Day, Omaha, Neb., the division clearing company's surgical chief. "By the old system of evacuating them farther to the rear we'd be lucky to get 10 or 15 per cent back that soon."

It's an experiment because normally a division clearing station isn't supposed to keep patients more than 72 hours. Thus, when the convalescent center was set up, army red tape prevented any personnel being available to operate it.

"That's where the band members came in," said Maj. William Disbrow, Cranford, N. J. "It takes 37 men and officers to run the center, and 28 of them came from the division band."

They set up 200 cots, litters and pallets on the floor of an old Belgian castle and sent for the band boys.

Sgt. Phil Ford of San Francisco and Alameda, Calif., who used to have his own band on the west coast, was one of the first to show up. He brought along his clarinet and saxophone and composed novelty pieces and songs in his spare time.

When he isn't making beds or changing dressings he's singing songs to the boys—"Cigaret for Poppa" and "Uncle Sammy, Take Care of My Gal" are two of his compositions that the doughboys like best.

Along came Cpl. Charles (Pappy) Powell, Ontario, Ore., and although now he's tending the nerves of shaken soldiers, he also had a big string bass with which he used to shake dance floors in Sun Valley, Idaho, Los Angeles and other places.

Sgt. Al Deharis of Uniontown, Pa., beats out on bebop the tunes he used to drum in Herbie Kay's band.

Most famous of all is Cpl. Otto (Coco) Heimerl, New Orleans, La., whose guitar provided accompaniment for 13 years for Gene Austin and made the famous best-selling record "My Blue Heaven." Cpl. Bill Sadler, who once had his own outfit in Cincinnati and elsewhere in the mid-west, now tickles the battered division piano. Others include: Pfc. Pete Castellano, New Jersey trumpeter who starred with Bob Crosby and Ina Ray Hutton; Pfc. Rudy Pompili, Philadelphia saxophonist; and Sgt. William Notini, Lowell, Mass., alto saxophonist who played in Richard Himber's band.

Most of the wounded doughboys work up at night playing a losing game.

Mrs. F. W. Allen, Portland.

boys don't know the reputations of their ward attendants. They only know their division is taking care of them—which is a lot better than being shunted around from one replacement depot to another.

The officers still don't know whether the army will extend the idea to other divisions, but they do know that the commanding general of their army group sent them congratulations, saying they were "salvaging more fighting personnel than any outfit in the European theater of operations."

## IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page 1)

means to perpetuate much of the waste and inefficiency which are inherent in the existing system.

What we have is a multi-district pattern handed down from pioneer times, without regard to balance of assessed valuation.

We have about a third of the school districts which have been levying no school district tax at all.

We have many districts maintaining no school, but keeping up their district to avoid slightly heavier taxation, by sending their pupils to adjoining districts.

We have imposed on the multi-district pattern many struggling small high schools with high per capita costs.

We have union high schools created on top of regular school districts and a non-high school organization embracing remaining territory.

This patchwork is like Topsy: it just grew.

There ought to be a sweeping reorganization, putting territory into greatly enlarged districts—in some cases into single county districts. This would permit evening up of assessed valuation per pupil. It should permit consolidation of local schools and of small high schools. It would permit trained supervision, greater care in teacher selection, centralized purchasing.

If this were done the schools would not need the \$5,000,000 they are now asking for. It could be done by revising the 1939 reorganization law and giving the reorganization board the final authority. The reorganization should be thorough and not timed; and provision might well be made for a review of district organization every 30 years or so.

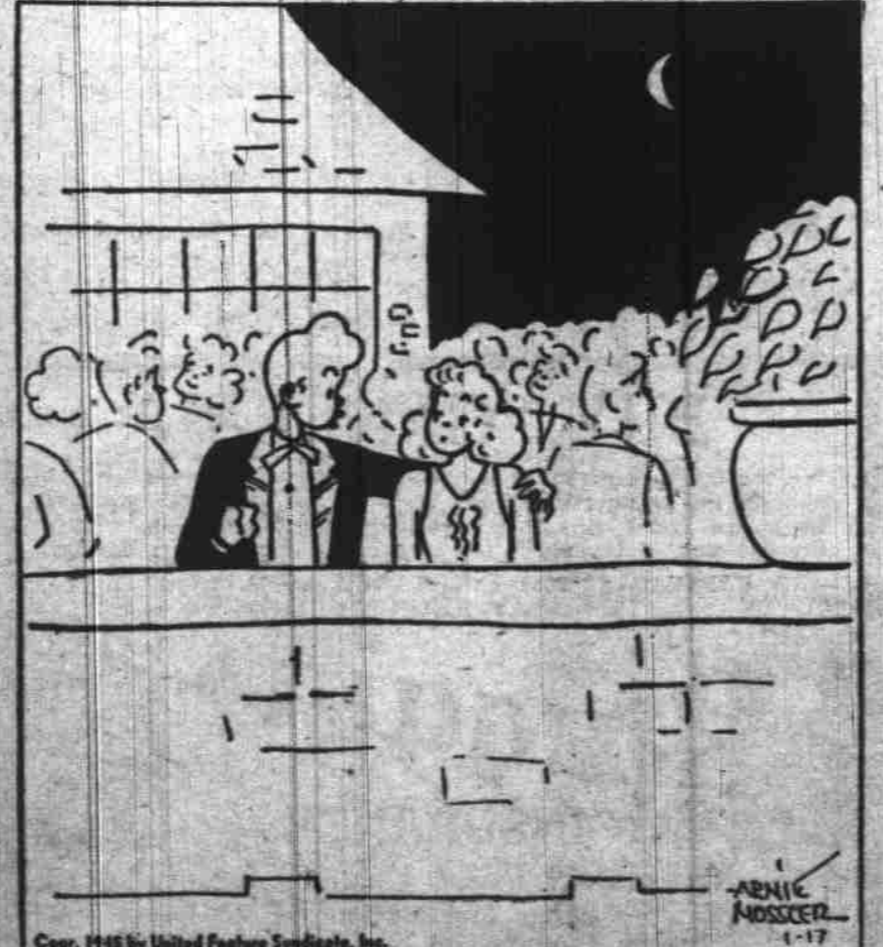
People do not travel by steamboat on the Willamette any longer, but they keep the school districts of a pioneer age. Modern roads permit unification, giving better schools for the money expended. All that is needed is legislative courage.

## OPA Refers Market Case To Portland

The price panel of the Salem office of price administration announced Tuesday that "due to the technicalities involved and the complexity of the violations," the case against William L. Lewis of the Paramount market had "referred to the Portland district office for determination."

Paul A. Hale, OPA board supervisor for this area, said "in my opinion the board is acting very wisely in this case. Briefly, the survey shows that there were 55 violations of the group 2 ceiling prices and that at the time of the survey the legal ceiling prices for the Paramount were alleged to have been those of group 4 stores, or about 4 to 5 per cent below those of group 2 stores."

## "THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



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