

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe" From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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"Imagining" Chemical research attracts most of the public's attention nowadays. Its "prestige change" has worked so many wonders that people are enamored of its magic. But old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity which found its outlet in mechanical invention is not out of style by any means.

In physical research there is still room for inventiveness and we have seen in this war ample proof that American genius for invention is still very much alive. American bulldozers have leveled landing fields for airplanes or gouged roads from beachheads in a matter of hours.

A new word has been used to apply to this facility of the American mind to contrive answers to mechanical problems: imagining. It combines the words imagination and engineering, and is the secret of invention. It is good to know that this native genius still flourishes, the genius which has given us the cotton gin, the steamboat, the reaper.

It is too much to expect that this inventive genius will also prove equal to meeting the social and economic problems of our time? They, too, call for imagining: the wedding of imagination and social engineering. The former calls for courage and vision; the latter for testing by sound principles of human association. Many are the inventions that are impractical.

Perhaps we should borrow Admiral King's phrase, "calculated risks," and apply it to social affairs: weighing the risks involved in change, but being willing to assume some risk if the prospect of success is good.

Ban on Closed Shop

The legislature of South Dakota has passed and the governor has signed a bill outlawing the closed shop in that state. Measures along the same line were adopted in Arkansas and Florida at the last election.

While the popular irritation is understandable the wisdom of promoting such legislation in wartime is questionable. By and large, labor has done a pretty good job in turning out the stuff of war. The proof may be found in the enormous convoys of shipping, the mountains of munitions and the acres of trucks and jeeps and tanks and airplanes which cover military bases.

Editorial Comment

OUR WORLD AIR POLICY The arguments by which many persons are convinced that American foreign flying should be handled by a single "community company" in which other aviation companies, railroads and steamship lines would be interested as stockholders are no doubt plausible. Nevertheless in this newspaper's opinion they do not outweigh one fundamental objection to this type of organization for aviation in the post-war world.

Stated generally, its defect is that it emphasizes the principles of "nationalism" at a time and in a field in which this emphasis is undesirable in view of the effort to reach an international understanding upon which to build world peace. If we put into world aviation a single agent which would be at all times and in all respects subordinate to the Government and its interest, it is certain that the effect will be to stimulate a similar treatment of aviation by other nations, even promoting actually government-owned and operated systems.

A "single community company" is a "monopoly" from any point of view. Theoretically the proposed company would be a privately owned affair but it would be in fact little short of a government concern and would be universally so regarded. Certain it is that the less intervention in trade by government that there is to be in post-war days the greater the chance for international agreements in other matters being made and kept.

tion of the closed shop, believing that such an issue should be deferred until the war is over. But we cannot avoid the comment that this anti-closed shop legislation is favored only in the non-industrial states. South Dakota, Arkansas and Florida are chiefly agricultural. California and Florida are chiefly agricultural. California defeated such a measure last fall. In the states where industry is concentrated such anti-union legislation is scarcely even attempted.

The closed shop collides head-on with the theories of political liberalism and laissez faire economics that flowered in the 18th century. It will take more than an act of the South Dakota legislature to restore the virgin purity of those classic theories.

Japan a Shell?

If one reads behind the lines of the military dispatches from the Japanese war he may discover rather broad hints that Japan is now something of a shell as far as war strength goes. The battle for Luzon has not been nearly so fierce and so costly as was feared. Our fleet sails within 300 miles of Tokyo and its planes rake Tokyo and other Japanese cities and meet scant resistance.

We do not want to be deluded by false hopes or by erroneous interpretation of reports, but all these signs indicate Japanese bewilderment or exhaustion. Our forces rapping at Japan's wall seem to detect a hollow sound. It will not be surprising, therefore, if swift hammer strokes fall on Honshu in the effort to knock out the Japs on their home base while they are groggy.

After all, Japan's resources are limited. Its armies are dispersed over Manchuria, China, Indo-China, the Malay peninsula, Burma and the Asiatic islands. Its shipping strength is so reduced and its naval power so weak that it cannot supply adequately the outlying garrisons. The Japs have never obtained full control of the alternate rail route across China and that route is subject to nightly guerilla raids.

With their suicide complex the Japs will continue to fight, but it begins to look as though the rest of the war may consist principally of running down and slaughtering Japanese soldiers. Japan may prove to be only a shell, and that shell badly fractured.

Iron Mitt

The New York regional OPA administrator, when he ordered cigaret industry to get stocks back on retail counters by Monday, said: "The OPA has power to force you to do it.

That's a heluva way for a public official to talk to American citizens. It is precisely what the people are afraid of: bureaucrats with iron mitts. We'll put up with it during the war, but no longer.

Japan is throwing out hints about peace. Undoubtedly Japan would gladly settle on a basis of "as is, where is." They would be quite willing to let the United States regain the Philippines if they could keep their grip on Asia from Manchuria to Singapore, with the Dutch East Indies thrown in.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

The war in Europe seems all set for climactic happenings.

Massive Russian armies are in striking distance of the upper reaches of the Elbe river in east central Germany as well as Berlin, and expanding Allied tentacles are fastened securely on a 20 mile span of the lower Rhine in the west.

Less than six weeks away lie the seasonal thaws on which Nazi hopes of warding off immediate complete disaster have been based ever since the jaws of the Russian-Allied winter offensive began to clamp down. Had the Red army juggernaut been brought to a stand in Poland or eastern Silesia until the spring floods broke loose and the simultaneous Allied advance to the Rhine been balked behind the Roer and the Maas, a brief breathing space might have been won by the Germans. Almost certainly organized resistance could have been prolonged for months, perhaps until another winter sets in.

That time pattern definitely underscored the desperate and futile Nazi gamble that carved the now vanished Belgian bulge into American lines in December at terrible cost to the Nazi attackers. It was evident, too, in the equally futile Nazi effort to relieve Budapest that only further weakened German defense lines in Poland at the very moment Moscow was waiting to launch its major operation of the war from the Vistula.

As the war map stands this week end in the east, however, spring thaws should have little effect on Russian campaigning. Huge Red armies are deployed within Germany itself along or beyond the Oder all the way from the Sudeten mountains to Baltic estuaries. They have gained access to the vast, interlocking network of German highways and railroads which make a communications wheel-hub of every city and town of consequence. They are using effectively the system of Nazi military super roads intended to make the reich invulnerable in defense in invincible on the offense.

The problem of maintaining supply lines across the Polish plains when they become water-logged in early spring still confronts the Russians, but they will have to deal only with nature. Their rear communications are beyond Nazi reach and the Nazi air force has been reduced to virtual impotency inadequate even for effective observation of enemy movements.

Once the western Allies reach and cross the Rhine, much the same situation would present itself. Whether in the Ruhr area or beyond the Rhine east of the Saar basin, Eisenhower's troops will find hard surfaced roads available to move in any direction. That is the irony of the situation for the foe. A road plan geared strictly to military considerations, as is the Nazi network, can be just as useful in reverse to an invading foe.



Distributed by King Features Syndicate by arrangement with The Washington Star The Yankees Are Coming—by Land, Sea and Air

Your Federal News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON (Distribution by King Features Syndicate, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part strictly prohibited.)

No. 27 Nonbusiness Expenses Many taxpayers have income and expenses which do not relate to a trade or business but concern the production or collection of taxable income, or the management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for the production of income, such as investment securities. Formerly these expenses were not deductible, but now they may be deducted in arriving at the net income for 1944 subject to normal tax and surtax. Whether you should deduct them in your return depends in part on the method you use in making your returns and in part on specific provisions of law.

A. Special Deductions By special provisions of law you may deduct, in computing your adjusted gross income, interest and taxes chargeable against rental or royalty income, as well as expenditures for incidental repairs and minor expenditures for the upkeep of rental or royalty property. These expenses should be deducted in Schedule B, page 3 of Form 1040 for 1944.

B. Other Deductions The allowable nonbusiness expenditures which are not deductible in computing your adjusted gross income may not be deducted if you use your Withholding Receipt Form W-2 (Rev.) as a return, or if you file Form 1040 and use either the tax table or the standard deduction, because you will receive an allowance in lieu of such deductions. However, if you file Form 1040 and itemize your deductions on page 4, then you may list these expenditures as deduction under "Miscellaneous Deductions" on page 4 of the return.

C. General Principles Expenses of this kind must be reasonable in amount, and must bear a reasonable and close relation to the income or the income-producing property. Fees for services of investment counsel, custodian fees, clerical help, office rent, and similar investment expenses may be deducted if they are shown to be ordinary and necessary expenses of producing investment income or caring for investment property. Expenses which may not be deducted as nonbusiness or non-employment expenses include: personal items such as commutator's expenses, cost of taking special courses of training, and expenses for improving personal appearance.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 17.—The war cities down this Atlantic seaboard, bulging at their seams, are worried and confused about their post-war prospects (as every collection of people everywhere). Food is good, money plentiful. Rationing has been less painful than in Washington and New York. The people have gotten through the war better. But just about half of the authorities are apprehensively anticipating depression and unemployment, while—singular as it sounds—the other half expect the opposite result, good postwar business, built on great private spending, with the towns holding much of their growth and the people retaining much of their improved financial position.

This divergence of opinion ties precisely with a poll of national business management, recently made, showing also that about half the employers are optimistic, half pessimistic. The pessimist side, as I find it, is based upon logical reasoning running like this: People have money in banks and bonds in unprecedented amounts, it is true, but their very apprehension about the future will keep them from spending it to buy all the things they need.

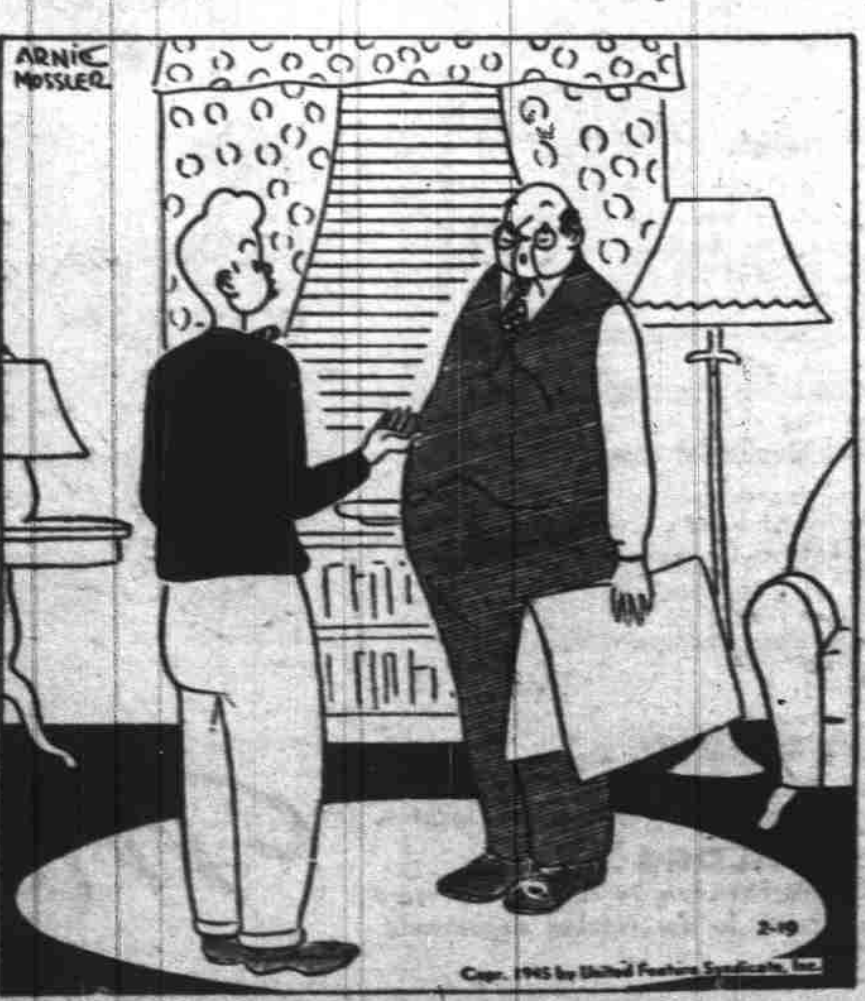
The constantly advertised attitude of the labor union leaders, who are trying to pry big post-war spending appropriations out of congress, has strengthened the already latent fear among the people that a depression must follow a war. Confidence in the future is lacking, money is already becoming wary. This is a new and true condition which has not been noticed before, and it makes more critical the prospects that reconversion of factories to peace production will lag. The auto industry (which is the nation's foremost) will take at least six months to change over, they now say.

But perhaps the most impressive line of new thought on the subject is that our war production has been so greatly expanded, this nation cannot possibly absorb the products of its own machinery. I have heard the contention from a foremost industrial leader that our airplane factories in one week can make enough planes for a whole year.



Paul Mallon

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



Kenneth L. Dixon AT THE FRONT! Spanish Soldier From Colorado Is 'Unknown U.S. Hero'

By Sid Feder (Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon) WITH FIFTH ARMY, Italy.—(P)—The "unknown soldier" of Battle Mountain has been identified. Through the enterprise of combat correspondent Cpl. Gerold Root, former Lansing (Mich.) State Journal reporter, the identity of the hero of one of the fiercest fights in the cracking of the Gothic line last fall has been established as Pfc. Felix B. Mestas, Jr. Mestas, a Spanish-American Browning automatic rifleman, came from Walsenburg, Colo., near Denver. His father lives at LaVeta, Colo. The capture and securing of vital Monte Battaglia, which translates to battle mountain in English, was a savage week-long struggle. Men of the 350th regiment, now known as the "Battle Mountain Regiment," took the peak and held it against almost continuous counterattacks and artillery fire in rain and cold and mud for seven days. A few weeks ago the 350th's second battalion received the war department's distinguished unit citation for its part of the job. At the height of one particularly vicious attack September 29, the official record noted: "One unknown hero was seen standing on the crest of the hill in full view of a charging group of fanatical Germans and firing his Browning automatic rifle from the hip in order to get a better field of fire down the slope. With the heavy rifle he killed 24 of the advancing Germans. He accounted for two more with grenades." Since then this unknown hero's action has been the talk of the regiment, but his identity was never learned until recently they had three packages of K when Root began checking up.

Literary GUIDEPOST By W.C. Rogers

"THE CAPTAIN OF ST. MARGARET'S," by Frances Molnar (Dust). Molnar, an old hand at old-fashioned romance, has written a lighthearted, inconsequential tale laid on St. Margaret's Island and in the Danube at Budapest. There is nothing of "Lilium" in this, and that's too bad. The captain belongs to another world, the pre-World War I world, and Molnar fails to recreate it. I read it sort of page-by-page, no one of them completely discouraging me but no one driving me on feverishly to the next. There are a few gay and witty spots and some colorful writing: the captain wished to kill himself with a "beautiful dark blue revolver;" trusting to the law of averages, he gambled his way successfully through a medical examination; he preferred flies in a side dish, he told a waiter, not in the soup. Talkative and ingenious, darling of some ladies but not of all, the captain had figured out various ways of going without sleep. A shave, he said, was as good as an hour in bed; a complete change of clothing, three hours; big breakfast and strong coffee, four hours. He made one point emphatically: Don't, he warned, if you want to stay awake, don't read anything tiresome. A really carping critic could make something out of that piece of advice.

"THE INNOVATOR," by John Reet Reilly (Pushkin). (Dust). The innovator in Jesus of Nazareth. Since spirit and earnestness count most in an odd book of this sort, this historical novel might have a wider popularity than its literary merits warrant. The idea is good, but the handling stilted. Jesus appears only rarely, for these pages have to do principally with the Jewish leadership who fought for political control and for profits from the Temple trade. To Annas and Caiaphas, Jesus was a troublemaker. They had to condemn Him themselves or surrender still more of their power to the Romans. There are obscure and unrealized references linking the first few decades of the Christian era to the first few decades of the 20th century. The destruction of Aziza's Folly seems intended as a parallel to the Reichstag fire; there is talk of communism; and the High Priest Annas glowers over "peace in our time."

It makes a plea for further attention to programs for physical fitness. All that is good. Children who are brought into the world deserve a fair break for health, for education, for moral training. But that still doesn't substitute for fruitfulness of marriage. It still doesn't meet the requirement which Dr. Durant bluntly stated, Russia's birth rate, for instance, is twice that of the United States. I know the reaction against bearing and raising children for cannon-fodder, but until the world is safely launched on permanently stormless seas we must have a high potential of military power whether the plain statement sounds rough and brutal or not. (There really are grave implications in the fact that our natural increase in population runs only at seven one-hundredths of one percent, or less.

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