The Oregon Statesman

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

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"imagineering"

Chemical research attracts most of the public's attention nowadays. Its "presto 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. After all, the great inventions which have transformed our living are chiefly mechanical gather than the discoveries of chemistry. Among them are the wheel, the steam engine, the electric motor, the internal combustion engine, the telephone, the telegraph, and wireless or radio.

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. Flexible steel mats have provided airstrips for planes in swampy ground and beach sands. When the Russians found their power plants destroyed as they recovered their territory, a Yankee idea-portable power plants-helped solve their power problem. This was simply a mobile power plant, a steam boiler and generator and condenser mounted on railway cars.

A new word has been used to apply to this facility of the American mind to contrive answers to mechanical problems: imagineering. 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.

Is it 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 imagineering: 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. They do little harm because their failure is discerned after limited trial. In the realm of human affairs we can't treat the people as guinea pigs for mere experimentation. We must be surer of our moves when we are dealing with the welfare of people. Hence, conservatism has an important place in scrutinizing proposals for political or economic changes. But any social change involves some risk; and we cannot stay frozen in our tracks merely for fear of risk.

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. In this field the people themselves as well as their leaders need to indulge in imagineering.

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. These moves represent popular reaction against strikes in wartime, and resentment against the principle of the closed shop in war industries-why should the worker who is impressed into war industry pay tribute to a union?

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. These quantities of physical goods, produced by labor from the mine and the forest to the supply dump, are testimony to the fidelity of Amerlean labor. In the face of this production it is ill-timed to promote anti-closed shop legislation which will do harm rather than good when it comes to preventing strikes and sustaining production. States are not justified in changing the pattern of labor relations during wartime; neither is the federal government justified in

doing so. We shall not now debate or discuss the ques-

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. These could not fail to be a perpetual source of international friction. The logic of such a situation would seem to require an overall-international organization which would control all national lines. As a matter of fact, Colonel Bishop, Canada's ace air man, believes that world aviation must be so con-

trolled in the interests of world peace. A "single community company" is a "monopoly" from any point of view. Theoretically the proposed any would be a privately owned affair but it 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. Indeed, if for no other reason than that of appearances it would be desirable that there should be actual or at least potential competition in our foreign commercial aviation unless we are preafford to ignore them.-Wall St. Journal.

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 anticlosed shop legislation is favored only in the non-industrial states. South Dakota, Arkansas 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. While this may be due to the voting strength of labor groups, it may also be partly due to the growing ability of employers to work with unions.

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 on 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. The impression is allowed to go out that landings on Honshu island itself may not be very difficult, or very far off.

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.

This is a beautiful, soft velvet glove on a hell of a tough iron mitt.

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

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

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

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 Sudenten mountains to Baltis estuaries. They have gained access to the vast, interlocking network of German highways and railroads which make a communications wheelhub of every city and town of consequence. They are using effectively the system of Nazi military super roads intended to make the reich invulner-

able 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

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 pared to put that whole matter under a large meas- will find hard surfaced roads available to move in ure of control by a world body. Intangibles are any direction. That is the irony of the situation going to weigh heavily in the creation and mainte- for the foe. A road plan geared strictly to military nance of a real international order, and we cannot considerations, as is the Nazi network, can be just as useful in reverse to an inviading foe.



The Yankees Are Coming-by Land, Sea and Air

Your Federal **Income Tax**

No. 37

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

cific 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.

the method you use in making

your returns and in part on spe-

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 expendifures 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 proper-

Expenses which may not be deducted as nontrade or nonbusiness expenses include personal items such as commuters' expenses, cost of taking special courses of training, and expenses for improving personal appearance.

YOUNG IDEA"

News Behind the News

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-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. an equalized foreign trade, not founded on credit (which in most

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 ap-

Paul Mallor prehensively anticipating de-

pression and unemployment, while-singular as it soundsthe other half expect the opposite result, good postwar business, built on great private spending, with the towns holding much of their growth and ness. people retaining much of their improved financial posi-

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 attude of the labor union leaders, who are trying to pry big postwar 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 becom-

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

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 machines. 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

By PAUL MALLON

CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 17 of our post-war needs. Some means must be found of selling our production abroad, but no foreign nation has much with which to buy or barter and it takes a long time to build up

> instances would amount to giving our goods away at the American taxpayers' expense.) These are powerful and unquestionably true analyses of the problem ahead. Nevertheless the forecast result can and should be avoided. The divergence of opinion, in

the first place, does not represent confusion. These authorities and employers are thinking of their own business. Their split, therefore, seems to

forecast that perhaps half the business of the country will suffer unemployment and depression, but that the other half logically can anticipate good busi-

Then, furthermore, this much is true:

There never has been so much money in the hands of the people and never a time when people needed everything for living. The government has control over the release of men from the services, control over business reconversion through war contracts. control over every aspect of the economic situation.

I cannot bring myself to believe that ther could possibly be depression in this country during the 21/2 years following peace unless the government makes a bad job of this, too.

Every ingredient for success is present. Wisely managed capitalism, working under imaginative, clear minded leaders, should certainly make all these ends meet.

The trouble today is no one has taken hold to furnish that leadership. The propaganda from Washington has been wrong in disturbing confidence. An inspiring leader there, who thought he could do the job, could soon correct this condition.

As for the reconversion of men and machines, good business brains certainly could work this out. If men of proven success were put to this task (as Knudsen. Nelson and all business was put to the war task at the outset) the technical features of reconversion would justify confidence. Certainly this is no tougher than the war task.

The only real cause for pessimism then lies in the fact that Washington has shown no signs of furnishing the proper leadership. Politics and personal enmities should be dropped for this business, as they were dropped

Mr. Roosevelt had better send out a hurry-call for brains before it is too late.

By Mossler **Practical** Religion

by Rev. John L. Knight, Jr., counselor on Religious Life, willamette miversity.

Picture a group of rather sullen, disgruntled people sitting in a bus or in a streetcar. And then a small child comes aboard and with smiling glee looks at the other pasengers. The usual result is that smiles also begin to become apparent on the faces of all concerned. The child's smile has This is simply one of the oc-

currences of every day life which we have all observed, but there is a great lesson for us in it! ess as well as disease can

BALTIMORE-(P)-A man stood in a cigaret line for nearly an hour just before noon today, and fainted as he reached the

counter and got his pack. He was taken to a hospital where a patrolman, looking through his pockets for identification, discovered eight packs of cigarets. The fagged out smoker explained that he had started "making the rounds" without eating any breakfast.

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-(AP)-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 Montebattaglia, 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 seeen 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. G. Rogers.

"THE CAPTAIN OF ST. MARGAR-ET'S," by Ference Moinar (Duell, Molnar, an old hand at oldfashioned romance, has written a lighthearted, inconsequential tale laid on St. Margaret's Isl- would think that in this splenand in the Danube at Budapest. There is nothing of "Liliom" 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 ctay awake, don't read anything tiresome. A really carping critic could make something out of that piece of advice.

Sloan & Pearce; \$2.50). THE INNOVATOR," by John Brett Robley (Doubleday, Doran; \$2.75). 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 leaders 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 Rom-

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 Aziz's Folly seems intended as a parellel to the Reichstag fire; there is talk of communization; and the High Priest Annas gloats over "peace in our time."

From Sgt. Cleo Peek of Arvin. Calif., Mestas' assistant bar man and Pfc. L. C. Burnett, a rifleman from Floral, Ark., who was in a spot to observe the Coloradan, Root obtained enough facts to establish that the hero was Mestas, who died in defense of Battaglia.

"Cowboys always liked to stand up and shoot that heavy gun from the hip," Peek recalled. His buddy, he said, was a husky 180-pounder who handled the 21-pound automatic rifle like an

Peek, himself a silver star winner on Battaglia, related that when he and Mestas took up their advance post on the height rations. They shared one the first night and another the following ray. The third never was eaten.

After standing off several tas and Peek saw the Nazis charging up "like wild men." counterattacks on the 29th, Mes-Mestas and Peek were almost out of ammunition and knew they'd have to pull out. Standing up in his position and starting to fire, Mestas insisted that Peek leave

"I'm sure cowboy killed at least 24 Jerries with his last clip," Peek relates. "They were coming up there all massed together and he had the best field of fire of anyone on the hill, standing up like he did."

With Cowboy firing to cover his withdrawal, Peek started back, stiff and lame from two days of exposure - stumbling and crawling along. He and two riflemen were the only survivors of their entire squad.

"After Peek left the entrenchment," Burnett picked up the story. "I saw Cowboy stand up and fire that last clip. Then I saw his steel helmet fall back and he stooped to pick it up. That's the last I saw of him." "I've never seen a better man

with a BAR."

(Continued from page 1)

children have so many advantages and opportunities, that the very favorable conditions for child-rearing would stimulate parentage. But, the statistics show it does not: only 755 net population gain from reproduction in 1944; only 627 in 1943. And this in years when the "baby crop" was large.

This is true, that Oregon does pretty well for the children it does bear. Dr. Harold M. Erickson, assistant state health officer reports that in the only stateby-state table of rejection rates published by Selective Service, Oregon's rate of rejection was the lowest of any state. This covered the period from February through August, 1943, a time of rapid induction. The rejection rate for Oregon was 24.4 per cent. Other low-rate states were Kansas 25.4, Utah 26.1. The national average was 39.2. The high states were: North Carolina 56.8, South Carolina 55.9, Arkansas 55.9.

Dr. Erickson observes:

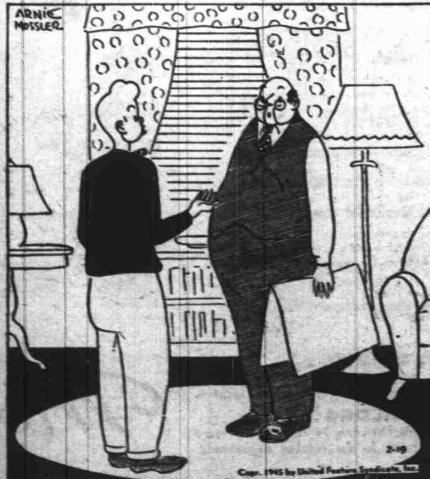
"That Oregon's rejection rate is low is certainly due, in large part, to the fact that our medical practitioners, our public health and school officials have been cooperating and that our existing programs were soundly conceiv-

He 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. Rusia'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.





After all, there's inflation