

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Less for Civilians

From Los Angeles comes word that manufacturers of women's clothing agree that new government orders will soon make women's slacks a thing of the past. The order requires manufacturers to concentrate on making work garments, like overalls.

Just think of Hollywood without slacks, will you? Many of its habitués would rather go without clothes than not wear slacks! They come near enough to that as it is.

The impending slackness of slacks, however, is just a sample of the tightening of controls which the government is imposing in many lines of civilian manufacture. The purpose in this instance is to provide greater supplies of work clothes—overalls, workshirts, work gloves, etc. which are sadly needed. But all along the line the pinch is occurring.

Lumber is getting to be a precious gem, so difficult is it for civilians to obtain. Appliances which in the first flurry of reconversion were scheduled for this year are still unobtainable. Even repairs will be harder to get, so Washington reports to the country.

There is a sudden scarcity to see what has happened to food supplies too, with quite a dispute going on among government agencies: lend-lease, the military, UNRRA, foreign economic welfare and war food administration. Each calls for greater quantities of what appear to be shrinking supplies.

That is the picture at this moment: conditions will be worse before they get better. But it would appear that the end of the war in Germany ought to bring some curtailment of government purchasing, except perhaps as to foodstuffs. It surely will not take as large quantities of supplies for the single war with Japan as it does to conduct the two-front war.

Seeing the probability of a termination of the war in Europe this year the American people can get through with a minimum supply of essentials. These the government should release for civilian use in order to keep the home war plant in city and country functioning. Civilian sacrifices so far have been chiefly inconveniences. We can stand more tightening up if needed, especially with the hope of an early victory in Europe.

Impact of Taxes

Frank Phillips, chairman of the board of the Phillips Petroleum company, has had his board cut his salary from \$50,000 a year to \$1. He told his employees that he didn't see why the company should pay out \$50,000 a year and benefit me by only \$309.36. As a striking way of showing the impact of income taxation this method can hardly be beaten. Phillips of course will not go hungry, as he has plenty of other income.

But, we wonder, is his company much better off? The \$50,000 is deductible as an item of expense. The \$49,999 save is subject to taxation which may run as high as 80 per cent. So the company isn't greatly benefited by Mr. Phillips' magnanimous offer.

Today being March 15, with income taxes due, the incident is timely for comment. The fact is that the government needs the money it levies. If it doesn't get it one way it will have to another. Why not, then, march up and pay your tax and be happy you can contribute to the government's support? After all, you got the income didn't you? And would you trade your job or your business which gave you the income for a marine's job on Iwo Jima?

Signs point to a breakup in Germany. Slave laborers are leaving their jobs and roaming the country. Political prisoners are escaping; banditry is reported increasing. As the Nazi ship springs leaks rats will start to desert it. Many will now pose as anti-fascists who acted only on compulsion. Curiosity is aroused over what the fool Hitler will do for his grand climax.

Henry Wallace, new secretary of commerce, learned to speak Spanish and Russian and to throw the Australian boomerang. Now he tells a senate committee he is going to learn how to fly in order to find out what the private airplane business will amount to. That man certainly is versatile in his ambitions.

Editorial Comment

BOUNDARY GUARANTEES

The world moves at a rapid pace. At Mexico City delegates to the Pan-American conference, with the United States concurring, vote to guarantee the present boundaries and political independence of all member nations, which includes all the new world republics except Argentina.

This, if ratified, as we think it will be, will commit each power to go to war if necessary to protect any other from attack. It will virtually make war between American powers impossible. There has been little of this anyway, the last outbreak being between Bolivia and Paraguay, both of which appear willing now to let bygones be bygones. Aggression from abroad occasionally threatens, as it did when the Monroe doctrine was proclaimed.

There are occasional rumors that the Argentine is arming for attack on its neighbors. The coterie that rules Argentina now is known to be jealous of Brazil, a larger and more populous country which now, due in large part to American aid, is becoming wealthier. This lineup of all the American powers, including the U.S.A. should serve to dispel any delusions of grandeur that may be taking root along the Platine.

A decade or two ago such a proposal would have been greeted with howls of horror by American isolationists, but we've heard nothing of them about this revolutionary step. Rather it is coming to be agreed that peace is indivisible, that to have it anywhere it must be defended everywhere. This does not call for defending unjust boundaries or other situations, but those in the western hemisphere are reasonably satisfactory, so peace is more likely to be preserved by readiness to fight aggressors than by inviting their attacks through a policy of timidity.

We believe the Pan-American conference are on the right track and that Argentina will eventually see the light, if only because of the manifest futility of continuing as a minority of one.—Baker Democrat-Herald.

Soil Conservation

Representatives Heister and Kimberling have introduced a bill, HB 387, which would require (as the bill has been amended) operators of mining dredges to level off soil, rock and gravel piled on tillable surface land in their dredging operations. The bill passed the house but is lodged in the senate committee on mining which is said to be unfriendly to such legislation. Operators of gold dredges have asserted it would "put them out of business."

The fact is that after the dredges get through with a piece of land it is put out of business for all foreseeable time as far as tillage or grazing is concerned. No one who has visited the John Day or Sumpter valleys in eastern Oregon and seen the gravel heaps left by the churning dredges but grieves over the utter destruction of soil once rich in fertility. It will take untold centuries for nature to heal those scars and make the lands economically valuable again.

The question then is, are the lands more valuable for agriculture than for their gold? On the basis of current market values the latter use seems to be preferred. But neither men nor cattle can eat gold. The gravel heaps can never produce the grain and the grass which the loam of the bottom land once produced. The time may come when that section will really suffer for lack of tillable or grazing lands such as those along the John Day river. They are needed to grow feeds for the livestock that use the mountain ranges in summer. Realizing this, many landowners reject the tempting offers made for their bottom lands which are underlaid with gold-bearing gravels.

HB 387 does little more than nibble at the problem of soil destruction by the gold dredges. A real attempt to solve the problem would be to require operators first to remove the topsoil and then to level the tailings and recover the surface with the topsoil. Expensive? Yes. But it might conserve the lands for indefinite use for growing grass and crops.

Admiral Nimitz neatly turned aside speculation regarding the command for invasion of Japan when he said, in an interview in San Francisco: "If and when there is an invasion of the Japanese islands it will be an army job." The job of the navy will be to transport the army and protect its lines of communication. He also said "There is no difference of opinion or conflict over top commanders." Since he had just come from Washington the admiral could speak with authority. The general staff makes the decisions as to campaigns and probably General Marshall picks the commanders. He certainly has made few mistakes. There has been no such fumbling as there was in the civil war for generals who could, as Lincoln pleaded with Hooker, "go forward and give us victories."

First private hydro-electric development of any consequence that has been proposed in this state for years is that covered in the filing of California-Oregon Power co. for a power plant on the North Umpqua river in Douglas county, with capacity of 40,000 kw. Growth in demand for electric energy and planning for the future account for the program. The company operates in territory not yet reached by government transmission lines. Use of electric power will continue to expand and the company is wise in anticipating its future demand.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

Invasion jitters sweeping Japan home islands may be a bit premature. There is much to do on the other side of the world before full power can be concerted against the Japanese end of the disintegrating Nazi-Nipponese axis; but that does not necessarily preclude early Allied steps to secure footholds in continental Asia.

That is exactly what Tokyo fears. It explains Japanese discarding of the "protection" mask used in 1941 to cover seizure of French Indo-China. On Tokyo orders, Japanese troops are moving to disarm or destroy all French and native forces. It is for defense against expected Anglo-American incursions from across the South China sea into French Indo-China that could cut off the greater southern end of the collapsing Japanese "Greater East Asia co-prosperity sphere" by land as well as sea.

It remains to be seen whether that is the purpose that underlies creation of the powerful British Pacific fleet, American occupation of Palawan islands in the west central Philippines, just over 400 miles from the eastern bulge of Indo-China and seizure of the Zamboanga peninsula of Mindanao dominating the Sulu sea gateway to the South China sea from the Pacific. Disclosure from Bomby that a French military mission has been in consultation with Allied authorities for months and is now attached to Lord Louis Mountbatten's southeast Asia command will do nothing to ease Nipponese apprehensions.

American naval task forces have recently operated close off the Indo-China coast. American air power has been steadily blasting at Japanese shipping in Indo-China and at the narrow gauge railroad that hugs the coast line all the way from Hanoi to Saigon, connecting central and eastern China and Burma and the Malay peninsula.

Announcement that a French military mission is attached to the Allied southeast Asia command carries a suggestion that at some moment a combined squeeze might develop from east and west to split off Japanese garrisons in Malaya and the Dutch Indies for annihilation, with establishment of air and sea bases in French Indo-China as a necessary preliminary. One air and sea control of the Gulf of Thailand were secured, simultaneous blows from the Bay of Bengal and the South China sea to gain positions on the long, narrow upper end of the Malay peninsula would seem possible. That would isolate Singapore.

It seems obvious that General MacArthur's diversion of forces from the Luzon campaign to take Palawan and the Zamboanga peninsula is designed to establish fleet access to the South China sea through the Sulu sea gateway. Those two air bases also will put an end to Japanese use of the oil from wells in North Borneo.

That nearby fuel sources could be of especial value to the ships of the British Pacific fleet, mostly built for short range operations in European waters,



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The New Watch on the Rhine



(Continued from page 1)

women contemplating matrimony in this wise: "Our only hopes for the new brides and fiancées is that they do not make their marriages an escape into mediocrity. So often a housewife becomes so embroiled in little things. Their worlds can become bounded by four walls. Their conversation can degenerate to Johnny's ailments, their newest recipe, an effective diet, or the latest bit of scandal. It is easy to make tempests in teapots. It is easy to become narrow minded by living a quiet life."

The alert Emerald reporter, Vicky Utz, gets a round-robin of interviews with Oregon women on how they contemplate a future as married women. One girl asks if a married woman doesn't have a pretty big job in "raising Johnny and managing her home." She isn't convinced that absorbing culture in afternoon teas is very broadening. Another girl favors the old Greek rule of the golden mean: "When a girl marries she should strive to strike a happy medium between home life and outside interests." Still another girl confesses she would like to be "embroiled" in the problems of married life, and believes that college women will hold on to some of their idealism. Still another girl expresses the view that motherhood is woman's most important function: "women usually make their best or worst contribution to society in the children they produce."

This of course is just the current outbreak of an old argument. Each generation of women has to pass through it, particularly since women got credit for having brains worth educating and gained emancipation for determining their careers. The significant thing is that these young women are thinking seriously about their future, about their responsibilities not only to their homes but to themselves. Already married women with a college education have demonstrated that they can be excellent homemakers and still not become "narrow minded." In fact education helps prevent them from going into mental decay within the walls of their homes. In the world of the future I anticipate that college women will be even more successful in combining home duties,

wifehood, motherhood, with outside interests and duties. It is refreshing that the college girls are as keen as any young women to flash their diamonds, and encouraging too that they look on matrimony as a serious undertaking and not just an amorous adventure.

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Mar. 14—(P)—The Byrnes super-committee on food exports was appointed to draw a ship-plaster over the mess which various government agencies have made of the foreign food supply programs. The deft Mr. Byrnes is taking hold of the loose-running, open-hearted, benevolent-handed food dispensing bureaus in an effort to effect some equity between civilian needs and further shipments to Europe.

Behind the move lay trustworthy reports of high accumulations of food supplies in Britain and some other places abroad (no one seems to know where) while desperate shortage exists in Greece and our occupied part of Italy (where published news reports say food is scarcer than in the Nazi-held part.)

This puzzling condition has been accentuated by simultaneous prospects that our own domestic food supplies are going to become tighter and tighter for the housewife until fall at least. Furthermore we are entering planting season with the most difficult production outlook since the war started, with help shorter and implements scarcer than in the previous war years.

The move was absolutely necessary—and overdue. A foremost business man, just back from Europe, is my authority for reporting an overaccumulation of food in Britain. For one example, he learned in London from business sources of four Argentine ships, loaded with beef, refused entry and required to cruise around in the waters offshore because shore-houses were filled and docking facilities limited by other supply ships unloading.

In Italy and Greece he was informed that the Russians party (the local people there no longer use the word communist, but call Stalin's devotees "the Russian partisans") had offered importations of food for political

considerations. Where the Russians could get food for export he did not learn. He found the Italians nevertheless generally favoring the American occupation, despite the shortages of fuel and clothing as well as food.

Beyond this report, the Nazis have flooded Holland with salt water. Southern Italian fields have not been cleared of mines and shrapnel and cannot be fully planted. Clearly Europe cannot grow enough this year. The problem of feeding Germany is coming up.

Now while no European seems to be getting food (Greece being in the same boat as Italy and France nearby), the army, lend-lease, the Lehman outfit and the commodity credit corporation have been buying and sending billions of dollars of foodstuffs abroad according to their announced figures.

The question, "Where is it?" is not the only one raised by these facts (the dependability of their source raises them above the category of unauthoritative reports), but the condition also seems to inquire if Britain and Russia have stored or intend to use our lend-lease food for the purpose of building influence and prestige on the conquered continent. If so, our lend-lease commitments could well be whittled down.

The Byrnes announcement made it quite clear we cannot too easily thereafter with our supplies. Shortages of meat, butter, lard and canned fruits and vegetables will continue to tighten for an indefinite period. Why? Well, a year or two back the government still feared overabundance, and grossly miscalculated all along the food line. Even last year the production of hogs was arbitrarily cut, also poultry. Spring production of hogs was reduced 29 per cent.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

OPPOSES WORK OR JAIL BILL. To the Editor: Can you believe the reasons which are generally given in support of the May-Bailey bill for drafting labor?

They say we need to conscript labor to meet acute manpower needs at the present stage of the war. But upon analysis it turns out that there is no overall shortage, after all. The figures quoted to show current needs represent local spot needs only, which are constantly shifting. In fact, every week we read of labor being discharged at various points because of cut-backs in production of certain items, or complete shut-downs, even though elsewhere production of specified items is being increased, so requiring more labor. At most, only a few hundred thousand workers are involved at any one time. To fill these fluctuating needs, a free and flexible movement of labor is the answer, rather than rigid regimentation. As indicated by the Kilgore-Wagner counter proposal, the type of public control that would really be adapted to promote labor-use adjustments while still preserving personal freedom would be the setting of employment ceilings in given areas or plants, thus regulating the industrial concerns involved instead of putting all the individual workers in chains.

As far as an over-all shortage of labor is concerned, I understand that both Senator Thomas and Mr. McNutt have recently admitted that as of January 1, the manpower situation as a whole was better than ever before.

Since the labor shortage theory does not stand analysis, proponents of the labor draft are now saying that it is necessary

Kenneth L. Dixon AT THE FRONT! Diligent Tank Finds 108 Footballs for Making Big Trade

By Robert C. Wilson (Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon)

ON THE WESTERN FRONT

(P)—This is a story of ambulances and footballs. It involves the American field service and took place in Alsace, Paris and London. C. B. Alexander of Baltimore, Md., needed 10 ambulances for his volunteer drivers attached to the First French army.

Alexander and Mark Ethridge, jr., of Louisville, Ky., went to see Gen. Jean de Lattre de Tassigny about getting those ambulances. The general had a shortage too—of footballs.

He needed 100 pigskins for his officer candidate school.

"And so it is a deal," said the general. "I'll give you one new ambulance for every 10 footballs you give me."

It sounded like an easy deal and Melvin Braunstein, son of a Pittsburgh, Pa., sporting goods dealer, was assigned the task of getting the footballs.

Armed with letters from the general requesting the footballs, Braunstein flew to Paris. First he went to supreme Allied headquarters. Then to French special services headquarters. Then to American supply officers and finally to the French commissariat of sports.

"Sorry, no footballs are kicking around here," was the story he got at each place.

Braunstein recalled that be-

fore the war a sporting goods firm in London had exported footballs to his father's firm.

So he hitch-hiked across the channel in an RAF plane, only to find the company tied up with army orders. But finally the American special services in London said they could take care of him.

The other day Braunstein returned to Tassigny's headquarters with 108 footballs, 24 pairs of football shoes and 12 football pumps.

The 10 ambulances will be turning up any day now.

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

"AMERICAN CHRONICLE: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF RAY STANNARD BAKER," (Scribner's; \$3.50).

Autobiographies are apt to be cradle-to-grave stories, starting in diapers and ending in dotage, or as it has been called, anecdote.

Baker's is a welcome exception. His book opens with his first job and stops with his most recent one. It has form and purpose. It's compact despite its 500 pages, it's sincere and unaffected, it has a wealth of interesting information, it's well written, it's timely. It's not a great book but it's an important one.

The author, who lives in Amherst, Mass., began his career reporting for the Chicago Record . . . for which he covered among other events the march of Coxe's army in 1894. A few years later he was one of the group, including Lincoln Steffens and Ida M. Tarbell, whom Theodore Roosevelt blasted as muck-rakers.

He imagined fondly, like half our newsmen, that he was collecting the material for his "great American novel," but he never got around to writing it. Instead, under the name of David Grayson, he produced "Adventures in Contentment" and other books of homely wisdom.

He leads you to suspect that he believes in Grayson more than in Baker, yet it seems to me undeniable that he will last longest as the ultimate authority on Woodrow Wilson.

Baker spent 21 years writing about the world war: I president and editing his papers; this country is deeply in debt to Baker for that job well done. He says of Wilson: "I did not love him—but I believed and trusted in him beyond any other man."

He paints one unforgettable scene. Wilson had fallen ill. The "stooped, gray-faced, white-haired old man," shuffling along with a cane, one side of his body drooping, entered a White House parlor for the first showing of the film which recorded his visits to Europe, when he was in full health, with the Allied world at his feet.

But Baker has a sharp tongue. He writes of the Senate League foes' return to the failing president of the actual copy of the rejected treaty: "I here express my deliberate opinion that this was one of the cruelest, most despicable acts ever committed in American politics."

Movie Price Ceiling Eyed

WASHINGTON, March 14—(P) OPA Chief Chester Bowles asked congress yesterday to help slap a price ceiling on admissions to motion pictures, stage shows, athletic events and "all other amusement activities."

The have been free of price control so far, Bowles told a news conference, because most of those things were not covered by the statutory definition of a commodity.

And the prices have been going up year after year, he asserted. For example, the cost of seeing a movie has increased on the average, by about 38 1/2 per cent from June, 1941, to last December.

British Capture Over Million Axis Soldiers

LONDON, March 14—(P)—Lord Croft, parliamentary undersecretary of state for war, told the house of lords yesterday that axis prisoners captured by troops of the British commonwealth and empire on all fronts during the war now exceed 1,000,000.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



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Advertisement for Stern's Son jewelry. It features an image of a diamond ring and text: "for the double ring Ceremony", "Three perfectly matched rings, including groom's wedding band. The engagement ring is alive with the sparkle of a lovely diamond.", "DIVIDED PAYMENTS", "Stern's Son".