

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Catch-as-Catch-Can Reconversion

Those who fought wartime control agencies and declaimed against regimentation have proven false prophets. For the government itself is setting a fast pace in throwing off these controls. Censorship is gone and the office closed. OWI has cancelled half of its work and will wash out the other half very soon. The war production board has lifted over 200 limitation orders on goods. The war labor board clearly is in retreat. OPA is removing restrictions on many commodities. Gasoline is unrationed, also fuel oil.

The fact is that this headlong rush to get out of business may have damaging effects. It lets the door swing wide for inflation, and signs point to the unwinding of the spiral of wage-price increases. While WLB says that wage increases are permitted where price increases are not asked for, anyone with practical sense knows that prices will follow or precede wage increases.

The explosive material of inflation is on hand: Money in the hands of the people; scant supplies in the hands of storekeepers. The bigger the boom, the bigger the bust.

The war labor board seems to be on its last legs. In the wage dispute in the lumbering industry it remands the controversy to employers and unions for fresh attempt at settlement. WLB simply is bowing out of the situation which is quite acute, with a strike vote authorized. It might as well fold its tent and go out of business and let labor and management fight things out in pre-war style. That clearly is in sight in the immediate future.

The danger is that if the release of government controls is effected too fast, with damaging results, then the advocates of government regimentation will say "told you so," and devise new and tighter or more permanent halts. What we think we are escaping from we may run into, and be unable to help ourselves.

Maybe we can take it, however, and emerge all the stronger. At least all who have advocated free enterprise are getting a break. The current scramble for materials, prices, wages, etc., follows the old rule of every man for himself and devil take the hindmost. It was always the hindmost who raised the howl. Now we shall see where the complaints come from, in the government's plan of catch-as-catch-can reconversion.

## Manila Censorship

America heard the plans for allied occupation of Japan first from Japanese sources. The Domei news agency in its broadcasts told of the dates and places where landings of American forces would occur. This news was confirmed on Wednesday by announcement from Manila, made by General MacArthur.

Just why this news should be retailed to the American public through Tokyo is hard to figure out. No element of "military security" was involved. The conditions were told to the Jap envoys on Sunday—that was why they were called to Manila. Only the indifference of the Manila command to giving the news gatherers there the facts at the same time they were delivered to the Jap envoys can account for the delay.

There is an easy disposition on the part of persons in public positions to withhold information from the public and to give it out at their own sweet pleasure. General MacArthur has held a tight censorship in the Philippines, and evidently keeps it working even when the war is over.

## Give Soldiers a Break

Local residents should give soldiers from Camp Adair and navy men from the naval hospital a break at restaurants. Complaint is heard that so many local people who could prepare meals at home eat out that soldiers can't get proper service at restaurants. We ought to show these guests full hospitality, and at least make

## Editorial Comment

### "WINGS OF AN OSTRICH"

"His imagination resembled the wings of an ostrich. It enabled him to run but not to soar."—Macaulay, "On John Dryden."

With respect to the war in Europe things have now reached the stage of erstwhile secret agents' memoirs, which as always make lively reading. It is disclosed that only the fortuitous seizure of a German order, blueprinting the German plan to cut through the Calais region and seal the corridor to Dunkirk, made that historic evacuation possible. There are other stirring disclosures. Once, because American intelligence had seized German attack plans, the Fifth army was able to create the battle signal for the Luftwaffe, and that prompt and thorough organization bombed the German position instead.

And so on. The intelligence story we like best, which is not widely known, bears upon the notorious German lack of imagination: in this case lack of imagination was just what the German intelligence officer should have used.

In the days when the historic Casablanca conference was being planned, German agents were swarming over Spain and Africa, and inevitably one learned of the impending meeting, a piece of information which in German hands might have had disastrous consequences. In the light of results, here is what presumably happened: The field agent dutifully sent his coded report to headquarters, but somewhere in the chain of communication occurred the fatal play of imagination. As a consequence, German agents in Africa dozed through what may have been their sinistrous opportunity, and Berlin radio jeered to the world that, to Berlin's knowledge, Roosevelt and Churchill were meeting in Washington, D. C.

What had happened was that someone, in decoding the original message, had not been content to accept the word Casablanca literally. It means "white house" and the German agent so translated it—a 3000-mile error.—San Francisco Chronicle.

it possible for them to get food at eating places. So when the impulse come to "eat out," think twice, and don't go if you will crowd out a service man. This applies particularly on week ends.

## Memorial for Ernie Pyle

Hats off to Mrs. Ernie Pyle who moved promptly to squelch grandiose plans for erecting a memorial to her late and greatly beloved husband back in Indiana, where he was born. She bluntly requested that the plans be abandoned "entirely and immediately." Her request, supported as it is by the fine sense of the people, should be sufficient to blow the ambitious plans of the Hoosier promoters sky-high.

What evidently was started as a proposal for a \$35,000 memorial library in Dana, Ind., expanded to contemplate a "landscaped, lake-studded park and cemetery to which Pyle's body would be moved from Le Jima." A New York public relations concern was hired to put on a money raising campaign with a goal of a million or two dollars. Mrs. Pyle was correct when she said "This proposal violates everything that Ernie was." She also stated that Ernie lies where he would wish to lie, with the men he served and loved.

The whole conception seems so foreign to the character of Pyle, who himself was humble in spirit, a friend of the private footsoldier, that its promoters deserve the rebuke which Mrs. Pyle has thus given them. No doubt a large sum could have been raised, under forced draft, and with the deep sympathy felt by the public for the war's most famous correspondent; but it would have been a sorry climax to the life and character of Ernie.

On Le Jima, Pyle's body will long be a shrine, visited by many, remembered and respected so long as any GI's remain alive. In an elaborate memorial in Indiana it would be principally a spot for ignorant tourists to gawk at.

## Interpreting The War News

By JAMES D. WHITE  
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 22.—(AP)—To the Japanese, one of the great calamities of this war must be the ignominious surrender to the Russians of the mighty Kwantung army in Manchuria. This special garrison force existed for years with the main purpose of fighting Russia. Its consciousness of that purpose was so keen that its trigger-happy troops got the empire into thousands of border incidents with Soviet border forces along the 2000 mile frontier between Manchuria and Siberia.

It got the best men and weapons Japan had. It ran its own empire of nearly 40,000,000 people and frankly enjoyed the job. It staged the Mukden incident in 1931 which won Manchuria and its troops helped with the conquest of China in 1937.

All along there was a struggle over its exact role between Tokyo and Hanking, where the Kwantung commander in chief doubled as "ambassador" to the puppet state of Manchoukuo.

While Manchuria was used as a springboard for conquests in China, Kwantung officers usually were not allowed to reap much of the spoils.

Until the European war, the Kwantung army's main energies were turned toward the "defense" of Manchuria, but behind that facade its staff mapped thoroughly the strategy it would follow in conquering eastern Siberia should the chance arise.

The Kwantung army did not take part in the first of the two most serious border incidents with Soviet Russia. It was the Korean garrison force which fought a month at Changkufeng in 1938 before Tokyo could get in to pull back. But the Kwantung army was waiting nearby, ready to spring. One of its intelligence officers told me exactly what the Kwantung army would do—it would strike eastward across the Transiberian railway and cut off Vladivostok.

The next summer, however, the Kwantung army thought it saw its chance, and engaged in bloody fighting at Nomonhan on the border of Soviet-dominated outer Mongolia. The Reds surprised the Japanese with their mechanized strength, and 18,000 Japanese soldiers died before an imperial prince flew in from Tokyo to order a settlement. The Kwantung chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Rensuke Isogai, was cashiered and entered oblivion until Tokyo, three years later, made him military governor of Hong Kong.

Fewer border incidents were reported after that, and the Kwantung army settled down as an immense training organization for imperial troops needed in China and elsewhere. Units moved in and out, but always the great garrison force was maintained in full strength, possibly with as high as 500,000 of the empire's biggest, toughest fighting men.

Tokyo's policy changed. The neutrality pact was signed with Russia, and Japanese eyes turned to southeast Asia and the Pacific. When German attacked Russia in 1941, the imperial command's influence was firmly enough established in Hanking that the Kwantung army did not jump on isolated Siberia as many expected it to.

How this was effected is becoming plainer as the Russians announce the names of the Kwantung army commander who are surrendering to them. They are all Tokyo boys, their loyalty to the throne proven on the field in China or at home.

The Russians have reported considerable fighting in their advance through Manchuria, but their progress has been so swift that it seems unlikely that the Kwantung army resisted with anything like its real potential. On the face of things, the conservative, well-disciplined commanders which Tokyo has moved into Manchuria since 1941 have succeeded in keeping their once-bloodthirsty troops in line.

The Russians say there is little suicide among the Japanese—although much talk about it—as one crack army after another lays down its arms to a foe it trained years to conquer.



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## The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

SLOW TRAIN TO YESTERDAY, by Archie Robertson (Houghton Mifflin, \$3).

Every once in a while along comes a book that's American to the core, as American as succotash and Gettysburg and covered wagon and Yankee Doodle Dandy. Here is another, unique, delightful, with facts, personalities and legend about short-line railroads.

The New York Central includes 400 former short lines, the Pennsylvania 600. The author lists more than 200 which carried passengers and were still operating up to two years ago, among them the Blueberry Express, Tweetsie, the Footsore & Weary, the God Forgot and the Ma & Pa.

Robertson writes of these old dinky roads with a fervor that suggests Thomas Wolfe's romantic passion for the railroads, though this book is marked more by intimacy and less by grandeur.

The life that centered around the short lines, the little towns they served with surpassing loyalty, their ardent defenders against bus, truck and plane, the hotels which grew up at whistle-stops, the drummers who patronized them (and some of their more hilarious tales), the poets who have glorified them from Whitman to Anon, the toy railroad fans and clubs... all these are properly included in this fascinating volume about a disappearing way of life.

The few surviving short lines get their business from an occasional passenger, organized farmers who require a transportation outlet which they can control, or some isolated mill or factory. Since the start of the war, with rubber and gasoline rationed, their revenues have increased. Some of the lines are narrow gauge as against the standard four feet, eight and a half inches. Engines run both ways, the caboose is a coach, the seats may be ordinary kitchen chairs, and the conductor still gallantly gives a hand to ladies burdened with lunch boxes, umbrellas, suitcases and children.

It was a grand world, and Robertson brings it back vividly.

Kenneth L. Dixon AT THE FRONT! Big Moving Day Project Underway At British Depot

By Helen Camp

Subbing for Kenneth L. Dixon LONDON.—(AP)—One of the biggest combination housecleaning-inventory-moving day projects in history is under way at salvage depots in England as the U.S. army prepares to move itself bag and baggage from the island.

Every item from shoe laces and instrument needles to armored tank transports and radar sets has to be sorted, cleaned, repaired, inspected and processed—either for occupation forces, return to the United States, or sale.

At the Toddington vehicle storage depot—the only one in the United Kingdom base—Capt. B. L. Graves of Dublin, Ga., is in charge of 14,500 vehicles in a space originally planned for 5000 and is getting more at the rate of 6000 monthly.

"We're already operating 300 per cent over capacity," he declared. "Why, we've got 2,300 jeeps alone. And every vehicle has to be checked."

At the Ashchurch Ordnance depot, Maj. Charles Grosvenor, formerly of Scranton, Pa., and East Orange, N. J., is in charge of 18,450 tons of signal corps equipment—divided into nine classes and 11,000 items.

"Every time an air base closes up we get 5,000 more tons of equipment and the walls just bulge," he groaned. "If I ever get on a boat for home they'll probably yank me off and say 'wait a minute, another airfield just folded up.'"

In the ordnance maintenance department of the same base, Maj. Harold Beavon, Martins Ferry, Ohio, supervises the processing of 500 bicycles daily and now has 35,000 on hand, all scheduled for occupation forces.

In the only remaining ordnance repair unit in the United Kingdom base, Capt. Victor W. Deacon, of Dearborn, Mich., decides whether vehicles should be repaired or salvaged—if they need 40 to 50 per cent new parts they are "canibalized" and the metal scrap is sold to the British.

The engineering department handles all types of supplies

from nails and emery paper to plumbing supplies and telephone switchboards under Capt. Cary Wintz, Houston, Tex. In the tube and tire shop 350 tires are re-retreaded and repaired daily.

Not the least of the headaches is the disposal of thousands of tons of excess British material—unused lend-lease—all marked "frozen" and untouched without a directive from the ministry of supply, which says no decision has yet been made as to disposal of the goods.

Among the 100,000 tons of equipment at the medical supply depot at Honeybourne, Capt. T. J. Baumann, of New Orleans, La., has charge of scores of British X-ray machines which are all excess. It would be impractical to use them any place outside of England because there would be no spare parts.

"Just call me 'essential' Baumann," he said. "I'll probably be the last man out of here."

Maj. Richard Freund, of Chicago, who has charge of 4500 tons of excess British ordnance material at Seshchurch, has his own solution:

"I know what I'm going to do," he said. "I'll get all the American material sorted and processed and shipped out and then I'll lock the doors, hand the keys to the British and run for home."

IT SEEMS TO ME (Continued from page 1)

(Continued from page 1) seems to have made liberal allowance for such decline in its budget estimates. It anticipated a decrease of about \$18,000,000 in sales during the biennium. Its budget shows further accumulation is contemplated, for it puts down \$7,427,173 as the estimated balance at the end of this biennium. The chances are that its balance will be considerably larger than this estimate.

What I am getting at is that the state is salting away profits in concealed pockets. True, the money will probably come in handy, and it is good business to "get while the getting is good." However, the general rule based on long experience is to discourage hoarding of public funds.

Cities are complaining because of the burdens they have to carry. They have a very legitimate claim to a far larger share of liquor revenues than they are getting. Decisions on disposal of liquor revenues rest with the legislature, not the commission or budget director. The next legislature should review the situation and not just let funds pile up, unused.

Evidently the liquor commission has had to cut some of its prices to move some of its merchandises. That seems the only way to explain the showing that while there was an increase in sales of \$9,045,700 last year, \$5,610,808 was absorbed in cost of goods sold. The commission must have sold a lot of stuff at less than its regular mark-up of 40 per cent. How much of this stuff may still be on hand is not reported. It does seem that the commission should move to decrease its heavy inventories, especially in view of the expected resumption of normal distillery operation.

## News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON  
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WASHINGTON, August 22.—The unity Mr. Truman established seems fast disappearing from the scene upon which it was first evident, and most effective in congress.

The preliminary peacetime haggling is evolving into the same old bitter, unpromising and destructive struggle for control, and the natural backwash of such political wars in times of crisis, elements of uncertainty and confusion are beginning to appear. It may become the new deal all over again if it runs the course upon which it is beginning.

What started it is discernable. The end of the war brought all the patent remedies and "isms" of the new deal days out of Pandora's box, winging freely and fluttering loudly, as if they had never been defeated or caged. Even the old-age pension groups (as announced by California's Senator Downey, the Townsend advocate) considered peace the occasion to start what is known as "a drive" for its fanged economic ideas. A social security fight is the second planned step of the assembling session (hearings next week) and behind it is the cooped-up program to kill free enterprise in medicine by socializing doctors, provide golden spoons for all mouths from the cradle to the grave, and such.

But the essence of the re-developing struggle appears in stark simplicity in the comparative ways in which the full employment bill and the Burton-Ball-Hatch bill are being handled. The full employment measure is a labor unions bill requiring the government to furnish jobs while the Burton-Ball-Hatch measure calls for a reasonable pro-labor reorganization of the unpopular Wagner act system.

The unions bill, under the leadership of new dealing chairman Wagner of the banking committee, is being launched with a promotional campaign, while the union reform has been hidden, with trumpets, under abuse heaped upon it by the unions.

It is true Mr. Wagner's show did not get off to a sensational start. The first day's parade of witnesses broke down with an epidemic of flat tires. The new dealers had planned to get it off to a rousing start by having General Omar Bradley, fresh from victorious fields in France, promote the idea. He made it rather plain he did not know much about the bill, as he had been at his veterans post only a short time. Advocates from veterans organizations talked most of promoting free enterprise and employment (rather than unemployment), although one endorsed the measure.

Ohio's Senator Burton says his thus-stymied bill "to inject logic into the Wagner act has met a good response from the rank and file of people, even in the unions, where many workers want labor to assume its responsibilities. But he and other moderates have secured no place for themselves on the congressional agenda, although they think something more punitive to the unions than they want—an anticlosed shop bill or drastic curtailment measure—will come unless a moderate reform course is followed.

The tendencies in these events

## Isaak Walton League Asks For Park Strip

The Salem Isaak Walton league, represented by Chris J. Kowitz, petitioned the county court Wednesday to set aside a narrow strip of county owned land along the North Santiam river above Gates for a public park and recreational area.

The land is about a mile and a half long, and is situated between the highway and the river. The league's application states that the time will soon come when citizens in the area of Salem will not be able to get to the river because of trespass signs unless the property is reserved for the benefit of the public. The petition also asked that in event the county refused the request, and decides to sell the area in question, that the club be given first chance at the purchase.

A memorial was also presented which asked that when the county in the future sells any lands abutting on a stream or lake stocked with fish and where the lands are adaptable to park or recreation purposes that an easement or right of way for use of the public be reserved.

LOAN RATES ANNOUNCED CORVALLIS, Aug. 22.—(AP)—Loan rates on the 1945 crop of Oregon oats will average 48 cents a bushel, AAA announced today. Lane county's rate is 48, Marion's 50.

have frightened many congressmen. One senator, whose name I withhold, has been led to believe socialism is thus coming up rampant to seize this government revolution in it, fresh from its own hands and destroy the pattern which brought victory—and few congressmen profess to see the outcome.

One thing is plainly visible—Mr. Truman has a job on his hands, lest he lose the reins of control to pressure groups as Mr. Roosevelt did. He is getting to the time when he must fight to defend the unity he first achieved.

## Need for Dads Club Theme of Rotary Speech

If the men of World War I had had a Dads club to back them up when they returned they would not have become the forgotten men of their generation. This was the opinion expressed by Arch Stafford of Omaha, representative of the American Dads club at the Rotary luncheon Wednesday noon.

Plans and aims of the organization were outlined by the Omaha member of the Rotary who has been visiting all parts of the United States in the interests of the organization.

While many veterans organizations are working for the welfare of the returning service man, many fathers of these men, are not eligible for membership, he said, in stating the clubs aims.

He protested the plan of tax supported state educational institutions that plan to charge service men non resident tuition fees.

W. H. Baillie, vice-president, presided at the meeting in the absence of R. L. Eifstrom, who is in the hospital. Dr. Egbert Oliver, coordinator of the local canneries, spoke briefly on the value of the cannery business and urged Rotary members to encourage members of their staffs to help on night shift work in coming peak months.

## Guard Reveals 7 Promotions, Assignments

Seven promotions, appointments and assignments in the Oregon state guard were announced by acting Adjutant General Ray F. Olson here Wednesday. They were:

First Lt. William J. Pendergrass, jr., promoted to captain, Inf., and assigned to troop A, cavalry, with station in Portland.

Charles E. Fitch appointed major, inf., and assigned to headquarters with station in Portland.

Lt. Col. Frederick H. Drake promoted to colonel and assigned to state staff as judge advocate general, with station in Portland.

N. R. Gilbert, president Rim Rock riders, Bend, appointed a member of the armory board of control with headquarters at Bend.

Whiting F. Martin appointed 2nd lt. inf., and assigned to Co. G, 2nd battalion, Portland.

Captain Wallace J. Ehlert, Co. C, 5th battalion, transferred to the reserve list upon his own request.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



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