

The Oregon Statesman

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

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Member of the Associated Press

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Timing the Surrender News

Advance news about the Japanese surrender ceremonies said President Truman would speak briefly—hour not known. This prompts the thought that President Roosevelt would have arranged it differently. With his keen sense of timing he would have had the time definite. And what is more he would not have staged an event of such transcendent importance on the eve of a double holiday!

As it is, the surrender story will fall pretty much on fallow ground. When folk return Monday night the show will be over, the papers old. The effect will be missed by a vast number of citizens who on some other day would have followed the surrender news through several columns. The typhoon and the Japs' delay forcing postponement of the surrender have worked to blank it out for millions of Americans.

The story will be reported all right. Somehow or other the reporters go to Japan, after the early negative from MacArthur's Manila headquarters. For one thing Admiral Halsey let the navy correspondents go on the first planes. The army correspondents were not long behind. Now by count of bylines there must be one reporter to every second lieutenant in Japan. Editors have to chop stories to get a fair representation of the stuff that is offered.

It's great news, too: stories of the occupation, descriptions of the Jap cities and people, interviews with rescued prisoners, sample quotes from English-speaking Japs. Too bad the stories come when newspapers still are under restriction on newsprint consumption.

Spite of MacArthur's bad timing, the situation is not without its compensation. News editors on a Labor day holiday usually have to milk the wire dry to get enough real news to fill a front page. This time they have no trouble—just turn on the faucet from Tokyo and let it run!

The Questions Arise—

Startling new evidence that simple, unadulterated day-dreaming from bottom to top was responsible for the tragedy of Pearl Harbor is contained in the statement of Commissary Steward Derrell Dirks.

At Spokane, Dirks said his transport "passed through the Jap battle fleet between Guam and Wake" in November of 1941—the month before the war began. There is no word as to whether such information was relayed to Washington, but it seems certain the transport would not have kept the event a secret. Both Guam and Wake were United States possessions. The imminence of portentous events was well known—leading either to war or renewed peace.

Failure to take full cognizance of the presence of the Japanese fleet, if Dirks' story is borne out, was one of the major causes of the helplessness of Oahu in the Japanese stunning attack. It seems to be becoming more and more evident (as pointed out by Columnist Paul Mallon on this page and former Correspondent Wendell Webb on page 1) that any courtmartial of Admiral Kimmel or General Short might throw these men in much the same light as the unwarmed and ill-equipped garrisons of the mid-Pacific bases which fell in the early days of the war.

Assuredly, Admiral Kimmel had no orders to get his battleships out of the trap of Pearl Harbor—and yet the Japanese fleet days before was known to be between two American islands and within striking distance of Hawaii. There are many factors still to be explained about Pearl Harbor, but they point more and more away from the big base itself.

It's too bad, this unhappiness of former Premier Tojo. The mayor of Yokosuka says he is "worried," and a Domei news agency chief says "we don't care much for him any more." We can believe the first statement, doubt the sincerity of the last, and add the hope that the unhappiness turns into nothing trivial.

A Japanese spokesman says that his country is ready to pay the price of defeat. Now please don't some one propose lend-lease this debt away.

Editorial Comment

SCIENCE AND NATURE

Some of the distinguished research chemists, physicists and biologists who have written for us on the way great discoveries are made still harp on nature and seem to think of science in outmoded terms. Like Clerk Maxwell, they maintain that it is the function of science to discover the order of nature. Clerk Maxwell's Victorian contemporary, Thomas Huxley, defined science as "organized common sense," which is tenable only if we bear in mind that what was common sense even fifty years ago in physics is not common sense today. The men who have given us the new conception of the universe and the atom say nothing about nature. According to Niels Bohr "the task of science is both to extend the range of our experience and to reduce it to order." Einstein uses much the same language when he says that "the object of all science, whether natural science or psychology, is to coordinate our experiences and to bring them into logical order. To Jeans the aim of physical science is the discovery of "the pattern of events which controls the phenomena we observe," even though "we can never know what this pattern means or how it originates."

The unanimity of these opinions is striking. Nature is thrown out because it is unknowable. Yet others persist in thinking that it is their task to fit the world to their perceptions and not their perceptions to the world. Philosophers were trying to tell the scientists all this centuries ago. Now that the great scientists of our time have drilled down to the rock-bottom of the universe, they reach the same conclusion. Perhaps Eddington has expressed that conclusion as tersely as anyone: "Science aims at constructing a world that shall be symbolic of the world of commonplace experience."—New York Times.

Politeness No Screen

There are numerous heart-warming stories now as men and women confined for years in Japanese prison camps emerge from their long night to communicate with relatives. Some like Major Boyington, air ace, had been given up for dead. Great is the rejoicing as relatives learn that their long vigil and constancy in hope are rewarded.

Unfortunately, the news is not all good. An American doctor who was captured on Guam estimates that 23,000 of the 30,000 American troops in the far east at the outbreak of the war have died, most of them victims of Japanese brutality and neglect. The estimate seems very high, and we should await official word before accepting it. But the stories that are released reveal the sadism of the Japs, their base cruelty in treatment of prisoners of war. This fact we must not forget even as we are made happy with each report of survival. The politeness now being shown by the Japs to our occupying forces cannot screen the memory of this savagery.

Free Enterprise

The anti-trust division of the department of justice has moved in on suppliers of metal culverts in the northwest, securing indictments charging them with price-fixing and conspiracy to monopolize. Several of the companies are subsidiaries of American Rolling Mill company of Ohio, which is a principal supplier of metal for the culverts. The complaints accuse the parties with dividing up sales, ganging together on bids and restricting the amount to be fabricated to prospective capacity of market to absorb the output at the agreed price.

The principal market was with government bodies from the state down to counties and cities; so if the price has been rigged the public treasury is the one which has suffered.

Free competitive enterprise which private business has been clamoring for often gets stabbed in the back by its loudest supporters. But maybe the freedom they have in mind is to gang up on the public.

Town Airports

Towns over in Polk county have been looking into the matter of local airports. The Dallas folk concluded after studies were made not to go in with Independence and Monmouth for a joint airport. Instead, Dallas would have its own; and the other two communities a joint airport.

Municipal airports are largely a proposition of trying to keep up with the Joneses. They are an expensive luxury, serving very few people and producing no income of consequence. The smart towns will be those that consider carefully whether the outlay to gratify local pride comes within their means. Most of them can get along with a wide field for local air enthusiasts.

United Airlines is going to spend a half-million dollars to "modernize" their offices. Let's see, just how old is the oldest UAL ticket office?

Interpreting The War News

By JAMES D. WHITE
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 1—(AP)—Allied colonial chickens are coming home to roost after spending years in the nest of the international thief, Japan.

Some are emerging from Japan's "co-prosperity sphere of greater East Asia" with little more than their pinfeathers left. None will forget the experiences of the past years in a Japanese coop.

But none is forgetting, either, that it is re-entering its former coop.

In recognition of this, various allied colonial powers have promised to enlarge the coops in the future, put in bigger doors and windows, and to let the chickens move around more freely.

But to the chickens, it will still look like being cooped up economically and politically by an "owner."

Japan offered most of them ersatz freedom during the time they were in her imperial gunny sack, and did a great deal of talking about it and what liberation from the white man was going to mean.

It would be silly to think that this did not take hold in many colonial minds. That it did not aggravate existing content. Human nature wants freedom and responds to talk about it, regardless of the source.

Some of Japan's departing conquerors have got in some nice ticks which will not lessen the confusion in the colonies and other dependencies they are leaving.

In French Indo-China, the independent state of "Viet Nam" has been set up in the state of Annam under an "emperor" named Bao Dai.

In the Netherlands East Indies, another Japanese-sponsored "independence" move is afoot. This is not new, but after starting it when they conquered the Indies in 1942 the Japanese kept it well squelched. Now it blossoms just as the Dutch are about to move back in.

The British have moved back into Burma with no fuss reported, and probably will encounter the same reception in Malaya.

At Hongkong, the sovereignty of China is not legally involved, because it became a British crown colony (like Gibraltar) by treaty more than 100 years ago. But in the minds of some Chinese, Hongkong means something like British possession of Manhattan Island would mean to the United States.

So Chinese prime minister T. V. Soong is on his way to London for negotiations, probably concerning Hongkong although that has not been specified publicly.



An Old Navy Custom

The Literary News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
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AMERICA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

by Nathaniel Peffer (Viking, \$2.75)

We're back right where we began 175 years ago, says Peffer in this book, an important addition to the lengthening list of profoundly helpful studies of our foreign affairs.

We washed our hands of Europe when we revolted against England, but they have not stayed washed. A complete break in the ties with Europe, our forefathers thought, would end involvement in Europe's wars. If for a time that worked, the time was short. Beyond any doubt whatever, this writer asserts, America is now inescapably a part of the world, sharing in world peace and also in world war. Two wars within one generation ought to be proof enough, he says, especially since we entered both despite the most diligent efforts to stay out.

He sees two main paths open to America: "to prevent war or to make itself strong enough to win wars when they come," possibly with a system of alliances. In agreement with other recent writers, he favors prevention and urges us to make up our minds to submit to the sacrifice of our so-called sovereignty to whatever extent international cooperation necessitates. For instance, if a new invasion of Ethiopia threatened we should have to give up some of our oil export trade, vote money, send men and arms to punish the aggressor, and all this by direction of some world league or congress.

The alternative would be the creation of a monstrous military state, costing fabulous sums, requiring two or three years out of the lives of our youth.

Europeans and Asiatics are better informed about international affairs than Americans; they have had to be. So the telling points registered by Peffer will be more readily accepted abroad than at home. It we really hope to be good neighbors, we need to be understanding neighbors, and willing to lend a hand in emergencies. The author thinks intelligently in this field more efficacious than our traditional idealism.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—Too much already has been written about the Pearl Harbor reports but yet nothing which would establish a clear public understanding of what happened.

This is because the reports themselves are incredible. The facts offered are generally true and full, but they have been presented as if 25 lawyers and clients were all shouting at once their individual accusations and defenses in a mass trial. For instance, War Secretary Stimson generously covers Mr. Roosevelt from blame with evidence that the late president predicted what happened 13 and again 11 days in advance. It never entered Mr. Stimson's mind that if Mr. Roosevelt had such information or belief, and did not advise General Marshall and Admiral Stark, he was culpable beyond their guilt. What is the all-too-apparent fact of the matter? Mr. Roosevelt expressed many hunches and beliefs at many times, and this happened to have been one expressed twice, upon which neither he nor anyone else acted. Now this double-scintilla of evidence is magnified to create a picture which is not accurate.

The report is all like that. Mr. Stimson says army intelligence had inside information November 17 the Japs were to attack five days later, and he congratulates that service on this incorrect information, which, having proved false at the time, may have led the army chiefs to be suspicious of that source and relax vigilance (if any).

The navy blames State Secretary Hull claiming his ultimatum to the Japs November 26 provoked the attack, whereas the army and navy had advised the government two weeks earlier it was not ready yet for war, as the Japs were superior. This seems to be the common service conviction, and is in accord with the theme of all the reports in which everyone involved blames

every other one except himself. What are the known (and omitted) facts about that? Usually in these matters, I would grapple with the 200,000 words of the documents, and then set out to find the answers; but this time it would be a waste of eyesight and footleather.

The Jap attack on Pearl Harbor, any military man will tell, could not have been organized in less than three months. The whole Jap campaign of war, as it skillfully developed against us, with perfect timing of the seizure of Guam, invasion of Malaya, conquest of Singapore and invasion of the Philippines, took six months to organize and 12 months to plan.

No American, official mentioned or unmentioned knew about this, or did anything about it. All officialdom failed. The nation was caught flatfooted. And now in reports all officialdom is trying to say: "It was not I who failed, it was the other official."

In my opinion, the Japs had been planning this war for 20 years, and the attack actively for a year, and seized the moment when we were getting deeper and deeper involved in Europe to stab us in the back. They chose the moment when our European commitments had reached such proportions we could not handle them and reached for the knife they had been whetting so long to just the precise point. This, I am sure, will be the judgment of cool history. Yet in one election campaign, the responsibility of Pearl Harbor was successfully laid by the Roosevelt democrats upon those who had a few years earlier voted in congress against an appropriation for Guam. Such is politics.

The report makes at least one thing clear. Any observer reading of the superficial stories must now know why Kimmel and Short were not court-martialed and tried. They had the goods on higher-ups in Washington, and a trial would have given them the opportunity to present it.

There is no particularly inside story being handed around here on the matter, except that Mr. Truman was advised to delay the reports until the Japanese occupation quieted down. Congressional investigation seemed certain. He does not seem to be "the political timing kid," as he chose the day of occupation of Japan to do it.

Also many congressional authorities were so displeased from the outset that a joint congressional investigation seemed certain.

No investigation is needed to show Pearl Harbor was the greatest failure of the Roosevelt government—the whole government from top down (for they could not find a goat to hang it on)—and perhaps the greatest failure in American history.

White House Still Restricted; Uniform Rule May Be Lifted; Back to Farm Move Studied

By the Washington Staff of the Associated Press
WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—(AP)—If you're hoping to make a tour of the White House during that long-deferred trip to Washington, you'd better forget it—for a good long time at least. Word around the White House is that the mansion probably will not be reopened to the public until next year, if then.

Out of the Mothballs: The army and navy are reported to be considering relaxing their regulations with regard to servicemen's wearing uniform off duty.

During the war, servicemen living at home were obliged to wear their blues or khakis even if they just had a couple of guests in to play gin rummy—and woe betide them if they were caught wearing slacks to the neighborhood movie!

Ambassador of Sport?: Look for top-ranking sports authorities to put a bug in Secretary of State Byrnes' ear about setting up a special division to promote international goodwill through athletics. Sportsmen maintain that sport

would offer a good opportunity for man-to-man contact between Americans and their erstwhile enemies—and even some of their little-understood allies, such as Russia.

The Japanese, for example, are great lovers of baseball.

Japanese Ships: The guess in high U.S. shipping circles is that China will come out of the peace talks with most of the Japanese merchant fleet—or what remains of it.

This would help China establish herself as a trading nation. The U.S. won't need Nipponese ships.

Self-Service: Another guess by our shipping men: MacArthur will let the Japanese use their own ships, manned by their own seamen, to pick up scattered garrisons and haul them home. This might take as much as a year.

The U.S. is anxious to use its ships and men to get its own veterans home.

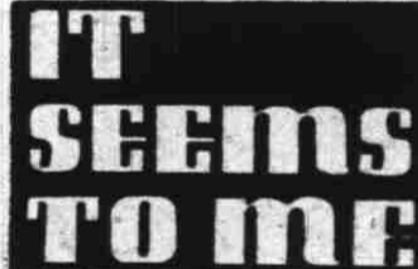
Labor Picture: Most labor leaders and government officials believe the transition to peacetime production will be unhampered by strikes—but they're keeping their fingers crossed. They say adroit bargaining and even tempers will be required while contracts are thrown open on wages and other questions.

The crucial period will begin about mid-October. Unions can't apply their strike weapon while plants are reconverting, but must wait until the employers are ready to begin on civilian production.

However, the labor-management conference will be held about that time. Labor leaders can be expected to try to hold a tight rein while agreements with employers are possible.

Back to the Farm: Farm leaders are worried that there may be another "back-to-the-land" movement. Before the war, they say, there already were too many persons dependent on farm income and per capita income was discouragingly low.

Department officials have queried representative farmers in every section of the country. Most of the farmers questioned say they believe fully 75 per cent of those who left rural areas during the war will return because of unemployment and crowded conditions in cities.



as a commodity. The unions demand a living wage and expect the employers to furnish it. They demand also a rising standard of living. This has come partly through the needling of unions but primarily through the technological developments of the age.

Unions have now entrenched themselves in power even beyond their numerical ratio. By political alliances in which labor furnishes the votes and politicians furnish the laws and the court decisions, the United States for 12 years has had a labor government, without the label. It is not surprising, then, that some unions have grown arrogant until collective bargaining in many instances is merely the presentation of ultimatums by the unions.

Some unions are run as tight monopolies, gathering the usual evils of monopoly. They are exclusive as to membership regardless of skills or character. Officials of some unions cut the swag for themselves and sell out their members without conscience. Abuses are protected in which workers suffer and public interest is ignored.

The country wonders now whether it is in for a renewal of struggle between unions and employers. Probably, but the odds are largely with the unions at present. As a result the strikes may not be as numerous or as serious as is feared. The urgent need is not for trucking to employers so much as reform within organized labor's own house, installing some real democracy in outline unions, bringing a better sense of responsibility to members and the public, and seeking in expansion of production the true earning of real wages.

but the spirit which exists at the meal, in the home, during the occasion which really counts. We might paraphrase the old proverb in these words: "Better is a bowl of soup where love is, than a T-bone steak and hatred therewith."

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



Now that the war's over, Mr. Potnik, which do you think will come back first—the chicken or the egg?

Carl H. Cover Is Now Commander

Carl H. Cover of Salem, has been promoted to commander in the U. S. naval reserve, at naval air station, Seattle, where he is on duty in the executive department.

Commander Cover, whose wife is in Seattle and whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. Cover, live at 484 N.E. Laurelhurst Place, Portland, Ore., has been on active duty in the navy four years and nine months.

Before joining the navy, he was a personnel director for the Oregon state unemployment commission. He is a graduate of the Northwestern College of Law.

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