

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Fewer School Children

Salem shows the anomaly of lack of housing at the same time that schools show a decline in enrollment. The pressures for houses or apartments is very heavy. A person has to buy a house, it seems, to find a place to dwell in. The city's population definitely is growing. At the same time fewer children than a year ago are enrolled in the public schools.

The reason is that the missing children simply weren't born. The birthrate declined steadily during the fourth decade, as it had been doing for decades preceding. To enter school this fall the child should have been born in 1939 or earlier. But the numbers born in those years were relatively few. Now the deficiency reaches into the schoolrooms. This explains the paradox of high demand for housing and lower demand for desks in schoolhouses. Five years hence a reversal may be noted as the heavier crop of children born in wartime march off to school.

Probably all cities will be deceived when the head count is made in 1950. They will not have as many people as they think they do. Depending on such statistics as number of water or electric meters or number of housing units occupied they will anticipate marked growth in total population. That will not be true because the number of persons per meter has declined with the smaller size of families.

Students of population anticipate continued lowering of the birthrate over the longer term, so our pattern of ages will continue to change.

Suffrage in Japan

Discussions regarding the rights (if any) of women in Japan has given rise to interesting conjectures as to the possible effect of woman suffrage. There is little use pointing to our own nation as an example, because our trend of thought is entirely different and whatever political leveling has resulted from our own women's vote is hardly comparable to the potentials of Japan.

It is true that the mass of Japanese women more or less constitutes a robot class. But intrinsically there is no need for it to remain that way. Students of Japan have found Nippon women, in character, but little different from their occidental sisters. In fact, the feminine difference between the east and west apparently is far less than the male disparity in thought and deed.

Japanese women are made subservient to men on the theory that such subservience is for the glory of the emperor. It would take a long time to root out that belief and translate feminine weakness into action. But there is little reason to doubt that an active feminine vote would be more interested in a resurgence of self-respect and a voice in homeland affairs than it would in the subjugation of a Greater East Asia.

One thing is certain—Japanese emperor-worship has failed to develop any concept of international brotherhood. Perhaps the liberation of Japanese womanhood would be a potent factor along that line.

Black Markets Fade

The black market in gasoline ended on V-J day when gas rationing was terminated. We hear very little about black market in meats, since there has been some modification downwards of the point-price on meats. Abundance provides the best cure for the illicit operations.

For years we heard about black markets in Russia. That, we felt was part of their system. The socialist system couldn't or didn't produce enough goods to satisfy the public demand, so private venturers got busy to provide goods at prices high enough to justify their risk. But we never expected a black market to operate in America, chiefly because we were accustomed to an abundance of consumer goods. In fact our producers were constantly complaining of price-breaking surpluses.

Yet when wartime shortages appeared in essential commodities the black markets seemed to spring up as by magic. Americans had no more virtue than the Russians both in selling and in buying on the black market. The American practice under prohibition of patronizing the bootlegger was quickly renewed, though nowhere on so large a scale.

The final cure is simply production. If goods are produced in volume they will be bought and consumed in volume. If they are not produced they will command high prices on the legitimate market, or if put under restrictions of sale will command higher prices on the bootleg market.

This streak of lawlessness on the part of the public is something the government planners

Editorial Comment

HUNGRY WORLD

Hundreds of Yamhill county's young folks were withdrawn from an urgent labor market this week with the opening of schools in nearly every district of the county. As has been the case in previous years the opening had been delayed again this year from two to three weeks so that the aid of the youngsters could be enlisted in the crop harvesting program.

The youngsters have made a real contribution to the harvest so far this year and certainly there is no feeling that they should be kept longer from their books and school activities. To the older generation now must fall the duty of seeing that the remainder of the 1945 season crop is safely stored away against the needs of a hungry world. And it does promise to be a winter of need unless every possible item of food stuff can be gathered. Hunger, freezing and pestilence will be the lot of the world if we of the United States fail to meet our duty now. Not only is help needed in gathering but in canning and processing either in plants or in the home. Don't fail to do your part—McMinnville Telephone Register.

need to reckon with. Prohibition didn't fail, measured in terms of consumption of alcoholic beverages; but it did fail in terms of the corrosion of the character of the people and of public officials. The American people with their traditions of liberty find halters on their consumption of ordinary goods irksome. Considerations either of morals nor of patriotism are sufficient to keep all of them in line. Government must recognize this fact. Our people simply refuse to be regimented.

The quickets cure for high prices in goods is more production. As soon as the vast producing machinery of America gets to turning out civilian goods, not only will black markets disappear but so will the threat of inflation.

Clackamas Studies New Plan

At Oregon City an organization was formed at a recent meeting to foster a county manager for Clackamas county. So far as we know this is the first time an organized effort has been made to apply the law enacted this year making effective the constitutional amendment of 1944 which makes the manager plan optional with counties. The names of persons identified with the movement in Oregon City indicate it is supported by many of the county's leading citizens.

It will not be surprising if Clackamas county adopts a county manager form. It has before it the splendid record in city government made under a city manager. The county politics in that county have been more or less turbulent for a good many years, so the people may see in a change of form a change to improve county administration.

Marion county has a far better record of county administration. Here the place to begin is city government which with its oversized council of 14 members and its system of council committees is notoriously inefficient and uneconomical.

Hurry up and spend your shoe ration coupons. They may not be worth anything after October 1st. Who wants to be caught with an unused coupon when shoe rationing ends?

Interpreting The War News

By JAMES D. WHITE
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 26.—(AP)—That magic phrase, "an Asiatic federation" made its first post-war appearance the other day at Bombay, India.

It came from the mouth of an Indian politician, Sarat Chandra Bose, whose family is strongly tainted with Japanese collaboration. One brother, Rash Behari Bose, lived in exile in Japan many years. Another, Subhas Chandra Bose, recently was reported by the Japanese to have died in an airplane crash after leading a Japanese-sponsored Indian independence movement throughout the war.

The brother who spoke in Bombay had just been released after four years imprisonment. He spoke just as the all-India congress working committee had branded British proposals for gradual Indian evolution toward dominion status and independence as "vague, inadequate and unsatisfactory."

The same committee earlier had made the demand that not only India, but Burma, Malaya, French Indo-China and the Netherlands Indies be freed from "imperialist domination."

The Indians, still not united among themselves, are hardly in a position to organize an effective movement to throw off Asia's centuries of control by remote European rulers through the colonial system.

It cannot be denied, however, that just now there is throughout Asia, as a direct corollary of Japan's defeat, a relative but vast emptiness of authority in many areas. In this emptiness sprout many forms of political movements today, but all having in common a demand for freedom.

This stems partly from empty Japanese promises while Japan wielded authority. Asiatics themselves realized that Japan's slogan, "Asia for the Asiatics" meant only "Asia for Japan," but the fact remains that they watched the Japanese drive out or imprison the white colonial rulers of pre-war years.

Indo-China is but one example. A transportation shortage which prevents the quick return of French forces has allowed Indo-Chinese natives to rise in an independence movement that seems as poorly organized as it is Japanese-inspired.

The Dutch are having trouble in Java for the same reason.

The British have got back much more successfully into Burma, Malaya and British Borneo.

Even in Siam—a nation which managed through the past century to remain free by playing British and French imperialism against each other—there is trouble today, as disturbances are reported between Siamese nationalists and the Chinese minority.

In this sense, China is playing a double role—as a past victim of colonial exploitation and as herself a colonizer and potential leader of Asiatic nations where her large commercial communities in all the big southeast Asia cities might prove highly important in the future.

China, too, is having transportation trouble. American planes ferry Chinese troops back into areas which have been under Japanese occupation, and it remains to be seen how the Chinese will return eventually to Formosa, off the China coast, and what sort of government they give the Formosans, not all of whom are Chinese.

Superficially, Asia is so hungry, so threadbare and so disorganized after years of war that the idea of a strong "Asiatic federation" sounds quite beyond the realm of possibility today.

Nevertheless hunger and disorganization of authority are two prime requisites for great political and social change—anywhere. These factors may paralyze Asia politically today. They may not always do so.



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Never a Dull Moment

The Literary Guldepost

By W. G. ROGERS

THREE O'CLOCK DINNER, by Josephine Pluckney (Viking; \$2.50).

Just as I decided regretfully that the book which wins a prize or makes author and publisher rich probably does not merit much space in a review column written for grownups, along comes a novel like this, selected by the Literary Guild for October, bought by MGM for \$125,000 plus, and yet an exceptionally interesting story.

The author's particular virtue seems to me to be thoroughness. This is the sort of book on which she could have spent years patiently working over sentences which develop once in a while into epigrams, nursing a complicated plot and keeping every step clear, bringing up her characters to suit her various purposes.

Perhaps her most careful study went into Fen Redcliff who, dead before the story opens, nevertheless proceeds to establish control in various ways over his widow Judith, his brother Tat, Lorena Hessenwinkle and others.

Perhaps her most inspired touch comes in the dramatic explosion with which the Redcliff family dinner breaks up.

One reason why this book will be popular, or why those who have put money into it think it will be, is its support of the good old days, the horse-and-buggy philosophy. To learn, as you may from the jacket, that the two families involved are Redcliffs and Hessenwinkles is to suppose the Redcliffs will be the right kind of people and the Hessenwinkles the wrong—a contrast that some readers might complain of unfairness again in the opposite treatments accorded to one Redcliff male and one Hessenwinkle female for the same offense, committed indeed at the same instant; or still again because the one rash and immature act in the entire novel is committed by the one person activated, however unwisely, by idealism.

In other words, this is a novel which real-life Redcliffs will indorse and real-life Hessenwinkles resent, but they'll all have a good time reading it.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"I wish you boys wouldn't report it when I don't answer the Senate roll call—my wife's asking questions!"

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—The American writers with sympathy for internationalism and generally for Russia, are now daily reporting to us their deep dismay that Molotov would not budge an inch toward agreements in the Big Three council of ministers. They are taking leadership in declaring the conference everything from a bust to a farce. As I gather it, they foresee the Russians doing in Europe just about what we went to war to stop the nazis from doing—namely gobbling it up.

The news has not created a corresponding shock on the inside here. Within officialdom, not much else from Russia was genuinely expected. No Moscow policy declaration of diplomatic action during the war or since justly gave grounds for assumption that Stalin was really fighting for the Atlantic charter for Rumania and Italy, except as it might be interpreted beyond our comprehension in Russia's fundamental political interests.

Merely A Beginning
Thus, while the run of London reports may claim "the Russians outsmarted us again" and term the conference a failure from our standpoint, the inner judges see we have merely made a beginning toward development of a policy by understanding what we are up against.

The London council drew the issues down from the abstract realm of allied propaganda into actual application, and discovered the void. Moscow had been talking about "democracy" for Rumania, while meaning hegemony over it. Not until the London council sought to bring the issue down to terms of practical action did it become unavoidably apparent to those who preferred to be blind that we were talking about opposite things. In this case as on Hungary, Italy, Yugoslavia and in fact nearly all issues, the public is now able to discover not only that a void exists but the precise dimensions of it. In short, everyone can now measure in inches how far apart we are. Until this basis of discussion was accomplished, progress was impossible.

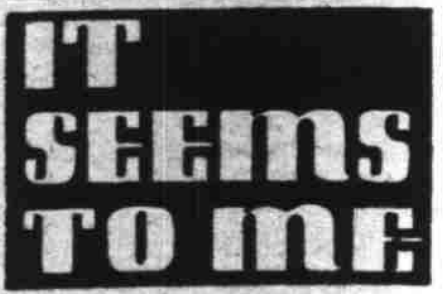
"Success" Not Worth It
Of course it would have been easy for us to accomplish the "success" of this conference, as in the past, by giving Russia everything asked, or asking for nothing for our ideals, while pretending "complete accord." That kind of "success" is the success of surrender. Getting rid of that kind of success for conferences is in itself a constructive achievement which opens the way for fair negotiations, realistic compromises and possibly genuine agreements in the long run.

The most effective bargaining point Russia has pressed against us in world dickering so far is that our statesmen thought they needed a successful outcome to advertise to our people. Stalin and Molotov assumed no responsibility for successful conclusions. They could let a conference fail. If we have dug ourselves out of that hole in London, the conference may eventually prove more of a success in its very failure than previously "successful" conferences which failed to motivate action, after this are recognized now to have been real failures of the past.

These are not my observations but a report on the inner import of the situation. They may lead to development of a workable and sound American foreign policy and a constructive defense of our ideals and purposes in the world ahead.

Byrnes "On His Own"
As to the personal inside of the affair, I can report State Secretary Byrnes has lost contact with his lifelong mentor, Bernard Baruch. The personal relationship there is not happy. Mr. Byrnes has been going strictly on his own, with such advice as he gleaned presumably from two fountain sources, Ben Cohen, counselor, who has had no experience in foreign affairs, and James Dunn, the assistant secretary, who knows them inside and out. These two were apparently at each Byrnes' ear.

In London to the exclusion of others. They all seem bent on building a new American policy from scratch, over a period of months and years, outside the fears and domestic politics which largely motivated the Roosevelt administration—and facing the facts at last. It may be significant that they will go next (after a local stop-off) to the Rio de Janeiro hemisphere conference, there to make permanent the agreements of Chapultepec, and establish a genuine foundation for hemisphere understanding and solidarity. At least we can reasonably look forward to that sound ground to build upon for postwar even if Molotov has now come out openly with the opposition to our postwar course which Russia has always inwardly pursued in action without deviation.



(Continued from page 1)

ideology and no understanding of the pledges made by our government and by our allies to root out the Nazi poison from Germany.

General MacArthur likewise startled folk when he made the statement that occupation might be just a six months' job. Now he tries to recall the effect of his words by saying that Japan may need to be occupied "for many years" though it may be that only small forces would be required. His earlier comment drew a pained expression from Acting Secretary Acheson who feared that MacArthur was contemplating an ordinary military settlement and not the purge of Japan's wicked hierarchy of militarists, politicians and industrialists.

Of all the commanders now exercising powers of military government, General Eisenhower alone seems to have a full understanding of the nature of his task. He has gone farthest in making the four-cornered occupation of Germany a success through cooperation with the British, Russian and French forces. His statements indicate a sympathy with the democratic conception of society which underlies the allied program and a determination to make that prevail in Germany to the highest degree possible.

We can lose victory by ineptitude or stupidity or indifference in our occupation of the conquered countries. Control means more than merely pulling the military fangs of the enemy. It means blasting from positions of power and influence the leaders who set their countries on evil courses and in eliminating as far as possible the fascist principle of government. This calls for expert administration which rarely comes from the military mind. The president himself should scrutinize carefully the methods and results of the men charged with responsibility in the present control of Japan and Germany. If they are not making good they should be promptly replaced. Clearly General Patton should be relieved of duty of Bavaria, and the "honey-moon" in Japan should end abruptly.

Contract for Building Given

The contract for a building, to be erected for the R. D. Woodrow company, at 440 Center st., has been let to Tinkham Gilbert and R. L. Elstrom, construction to start immediately. The building is expected to cost around \$25,000.

The proposed building will be of reinforced concrete, with concrete floor, one story with mezzanine roof and will be 66 by 83 feet. The location for the fire, battery and accessory concern will be across the street from the new Loder Bros. building.

Lyle P. Bartholomew is the architect and E. E. Batterman the contractor.

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1876 SHINGLES STILL GOOD

DAYTON, Sept. 26.—(AP)—Mrs. John Hibbs is not among Oregonians who fear leaky roofs with approach of the rainy season.

The hand-shaved cedar shingles put on her barn in 1876 and the house in 1888 still are good for another year or so, she says.