

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Only A Symbol is Dead

The ignominious death of Pierre Laval may or may not spark the resurgence of France as a democratic world power. But one thing is certain—history will find in the fate of his grave the answer as to whether World War II was a milestone to permanent world peace.

Black Peter, whose name bore but little less of an onus than Norway's Quisling, did not meet his fate as we might have wished—as a cringing, remorseful, terror-stricken subject of fascism. He died in a manner which could well lead to martyrdom if future years do not bring out in truer light the evil he personified.

In his final hour, he asked to give the fatal order to fire. He refused to be carried to his execution. On his dying lips were the words "Vive la France." Laval at one time had a big following in France, for all his many faults. He had lost a great share of that following before he turned traitor. And in selling out to Germany he left nothing whatever to be admired—not even the once-great service which softened the attitude toward Marshal Petain.

But, dying as he did, there will be some with a lingering loyalty to the man who may profess to believe his last words—"I die because I loved my country to well." It is these who must be made to see that the allies didn't execute Pierre Laval the Frenchman. They executed Pierre Laval of the warped mind; Pierre Laval who embraced fascism; Pierre Laval who said "I desire a German victory;" Pierre Laval the personification of weakness, the betrayer of his country, the stooge of man's inhumanity to man.

Laval's grave is unhonored. It remains that way, and in years hence the progress of France and the world has been such that his memory is as stained as it is today. World War II will not have been in vain. The cause for which the man died will have died with him.

Wartime Powers

The conservative opposition drove home some sharp spearheads of argument in their attack on the British Labor government's motion to extend war powers for a five-year term. Despite the attack the motion prevailed, 258 to 39, on what was really a first test of strength on party policy in the new government.

Anthony Eden, acting as leader of the opposition in the absence of Winston Churchill, declared the powers asked were "such as no government has asked in peacetime." Victor Raikes, another conservative, said passage of the motion would make the parliament "nothing more than a reichstag."

The familiar mechanism of those who label themselves as "liberal" is to have government assume and hold almost despotic powers. It is characteristic of the breed to want to effect reform by force and compulsion—all in the name of three or four freedoms or even five. Here the labor government, unwilling to risk an appeal for renewal of grant of powers two or three years hence, grabs a five-year hold on wartime authority.

In this country the congress put definite limits to such measures as OPA, and all wartime grants of power automatically terminate six months after the war's formal ending. That is a much better plan, the elected representatives reserving the right to extend or let die the powers vested in the executive in wartime.

Britain's financial position is more critical than ours, and controls will be needed for a longer time to effect a transition to peace. But power is something that even the pure-in-heart cannot be trusted with too long or too completely. The labor government's motion is a confession that it isn't willing to trust the people for an interim expression on its use of power.

Greasy Spoon

It took action or threat of action by the army to clean up the greasy spoon restaurants here in Salem. If it hadn't been for the army, patrons would still be subject to whatever risk there is in eating in unsanitary restaurants. Perhaps the proprietors went on the theory that what the public didn't know didn't hurt them; but that is a poor way to run an eating place.

Now the council has taken preliminary action, which it defeated two years ago for fear of wounding feelings, to have an assistant health officer responsible to the department of health in place of a city sanitary inspector. A mere change of face or title will do no good, however, unless the officer rigidly enforces good standards of sanitation. From reports that have come to us, some of the places have been pretty filthy in their kitchens and in their practices. They may offer the excuse of lack of help, but that is poor defense for lack of cleanliness in a place serving the public with food.

We can be grateful to the army for jacking up the town and perhaps pointing the way to better conditions in our eating places.

Cheap Money

The softness of the money market is permitting the issuance of preferred stocks whose dividend rates are running around four per cent. Big corporations have gotten well along with refunding of their bond issues to take advantage of lower interest rates. Now they are working on preferred stocks with dividend rates of five, six or seven per cent. If the company's earnings record is good it can refinance with an issue of four or four and one-half per cent preferred stock. Some companies are providing new money with issues of low-rate preferred stock.

That is really giving the investor a ribbing, for all he is getting is a stock with no guarantee of continuity of dividends and usually with no sharing in profits beyond the fixed dividend. The income tax penalty is the same as with bond interest. His only comfort is that the rate is about one per cent or so higher than the bond rate. That such securities may be marketed shows the super-abundance of capital seeking investment.

Portland Gangsters

If the gangsters thought they could intimidate Tom Handley, district attorney of Multnomah county, by shooting at one of his guards or threatening him on the phone, they guessed wrong. Tom Handley has a lot tougher stuff in him than jelly that shakes at a gangster's threat.

We trust he takes up the challenge and proceeds to make it rough on the criminal element in Portland—especially that part in business suits that thrives on the gambling trade flourishing in the city.

They didn't think they could grow sweetcorn here, commercially that is. Farmers grew enough to satisfy the local demand, and stopped there. Times have changed. For days trucks have been racing through town loaded to the top of the sideboards with sweetcorn in the natural package. It has gone to the cannery or has been shipped under ice to California cities for the fresh markets. Improved varieties of seed, care in selection of soils and plenty of irrigation account for the development of sweetcorn as an "export" crop.

When representatives passed the tax reduction bill several demanded reductions in federal expenses. Then they probably picked up tin cups and raced for the appropriations committee to get drippings for their home districts.



Well Done, Admiral Nimitz

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

SEVEN TIMES THE LEADING MAN, by Egon Hostovsky (Fisher; \$2.75).

Joseph Kavalsky, unhappy "leading man" of this novel, is the strength and weakness, the god and nemesis of seven persons, wife, mistress and friends. A writer in Prague, he wishes to embrace nazism, but when its full meaning is disclosed he finds it too repugnant. Abandoned by him in his profound disillusionment, his friends are confronted by a Europe cracking under the strain of prewar crises, and only two of them, left to their own devices, manage to discover the way to salvation.

Hostovsky, Czechoslovak now in this country, is an earnest, worthwhile novelist, as "The Hideout" immediately demonstrated. This new book is commendable in purpose but not in craftsmanship. Even if the evil that led to World War II did reside in an atmosphere rather than in actual persons and places, that evil nevertheless has to be drawn out of the clouds more concretely before it can become a good story.

THE ROAD TO HIGH EMPLOYMENT, by Douglas B. Copland (Harvard; \$1.75).

Prof. Copland, of Australia's University of Melbourne, noting private enterprise's contribution to society particularly during the war, thinks the businessman and manufacturer should be free to continue their great work.

Certain social controls, however, would not in his opinion diminish that essential freedom. Actions that benefit the individual, such as saving, or the corporation, such as retrenchment in hard times, can harm the community. He would compensate for these by government action to secure comparatively full employment.

One indication of the need for society's intervention is seen in this fact, which readers will agree with Copland is startling: the standard of living recession in the U. S. from 1929 to 1933 was greater than in England from 1938 to 1943. Depression, in other words, is costlier than the costliest war.

The text is Copland's Godkin lectures at Harvard in the last academic year. It makes absorbing reading.



MANILA (AP)—Anglo-Saxon law is likely to get the sharpest revamping it has had since the Magna Carta as a result of Lt. Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita's war criminal trial here Oct. 29.

It begins to look as though the American military commission which will try Yamashita may decide that some crimes committed against humanity have outdistanced the law books.

The charge against Yamashita does not accuse him of committing a single atrocity or of personally ordering a single one committed.

Rather, it charges that he "failed to control operations of members of his command, permitting them to commit brutal atrocities" and that he "thereby violated the laws of war."

That charge is as full of potential legal explosives as an atomic bomb.

There isn't any law of war—at least none that Japan ever subscribed to—holding a commander legally responsible for personal crimes committed by soldiers under his command. If such a law exists anywhere, this correspondent has been unable to find out where.

Yamashita is being tried for his life on a charge which by its very nature assumes the existence of such a law.

Neither the charge nor the particulars which detailed thousands of cases of murder, mayhem, maiming and torture attempted in any way to connect Yamashita personally with any individual incident. There was not even an effort to show that he, as commander of the Japanese imperial army in the Philippines, either ordered any atrocities or officially was aware any had been committed.

Since the charge, and the bill of particulars provide the basis for the coming trial, it is doubtful if any such efforts will be made. Every indication seems to be that the prosecution will concentrate on proving that the commission of such atrocities was possible because Yamashita failed to control his troops.

Apparently, the American

military commission is taking the quite understandable point of view that too many thousands of human beings suffered or died horribly to justify delaying the trial until some adequate law could be passed to cover the situation.

Even if they waited, they still would be forced to overrule the ancient "ex post facto" — after the fact's in the fire—common law because the acts committed would predate the passage of any measure making them international crimes.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

in the direction of giving monopoly powers and exemptions to labor unions. The various laws that have been passed in the last quarter-century extend freedoms to unions but tie the hands of employers—laws such as the Norris-LaGuardia and the Wagner labor relations act. The Smith-Connelly act which was designed to prevent strikes in wartime has proved a strike breeder, if anything. But I do not see any politicians proposing to restore to courts the privilege of granting injunctions in labor disputes.

If society seems impotent in the face of these work stoppages we should remember that settlement by government force would be an invasion of popular rights. Much as people may fume over lack of stages for travel or lack of lumber for building, that is the inevitable result of our principle of freedom for individuals and groups. The employer, of course, has the right to hire a new crew and attempt to operate but he knows very well that under union labor control he would get no crew, so in the majority of cases he just shuts down pending a strike settlement.

We can throw overboard our free system and force arbitration or judicial determination of wage disputes, but even in wartime that method worked none too well. John L. Lewis' coal miners bluffed the war labor board into submission. Unless we resort to government compulsion, which simply means more regimentation, then we will just have to sit out these strikes. I haven't seen any recommendation from these people afflicted with strike-phobia that looks like a practical proposal for government action. Have you?

Permit Issued for \$4,000,000 Work On North Umpqua

Permit for development of the California-Oregon Power company's \$4,000,000 Tokete project on the North Umpqua river was issued by the state hydroelectric commission Tuesday.

The development contemplates appropriation of 122 second feet of water from the Umpqua river, 7600 lineal feet of tunnel, installation of two turbines of 28,000 horsepower each, and a transmission line extending from the Tokete plant to the company's substation at Dixonville, near Roseburg.

The project is exclusively for the production of electric energy.

Thousands of Marines Aided Back to Health

KLAMATH FALLS, Oct. 16 (AP)—Restored health and confidence for more than 5000 marines suffering from what they thought were incurable tropical diseases—is the record of Capt. Lowell T. Coggeshall, awarded the 1945 "Gorgas medal" here today.

Most of the men returned to full duty after treatment without hospitalization at a resort-like mountain setting. Their medicine: Stimulating recreation and military training; mental and physical workouts to keep them busy; plenty of healthful food.

The navy doctor set up his post in May, 1944, working with Col. George O. Van Orden, who had had the maladies himself after south Pacific duty. The site, which accommodated several thousand men, was three miles from Klamath Falls and 5000 feet above sea level.

Here, the marine with malaria or filariasis was advised his system was destroying the bugs in his body, and they would not multiply. He was assigned to a regular marine company and launched on a program of indoor and outdoor work—to keep him busy but not tire him.

Football, basketball, baseball, hunting and fishing, dances, and thick steaks—were the order of the day. After mental and spiritual reconditioning came physical improvement, finally the "tolerance test." This rugged endurance test, "which made combat activity seem like croquet," took the victim over a mountain course under full pack.

Captain Coggeshall said, after a year's operation of the post, the treatment had:

1. Disproved the idea that filariasis was incurable and meant a washed-up life.
2. Proved that malaria can be broken.
3. Founded a new concept for military medicine, based on the principle that convalescents can carry on postwar and war training and benefit from it.

Rocky Mountain Geology Will Be Topic of Meeting

Geology of the Rocky Mountains is the theme for the meeting of the Salem Geological Society Thursday night, October 18, at 8 o'clock, in Collins hall, Willamette university.

Charles E. Roblin, for many years in the U. S. Indian service, who has spent much time in the area of the Glacier National park, will talk on the geology of that region.

L. F. Heuperman, who before coming to the United States was dominion land surveyor in Canada and spent some time in the vicinity of Kootenay National park, will give an outline of the geological history of the Marble canyon, outstanding feature of that park.

Prof. Herman Clark, head of the department of geology at Willamette, will conclude the program, discussing "Odd Features of the Rocky Mountains."

Pictures will be shown with the lectures to which the public is invited.

Highland School Boy Scouts Hosts At Open House

An open house was held recently by troop 3, Boy Scouts, at Highland school, attended by a score of parents and friends and by Boy Scout Troop 20 of Hayesville school, accompanied by Scoutmaster George Strout.

Installation of troop officers was held for Glenn Kleen, senior patrol leader; for patrol leaders Art Jess, Orin DuChain, Dick Isaak, and Lane Cooper; for assistant patrol leaders Kenny Keppinger; Garry Hise, Paul DuChain and Clifford Girod; for troop treasurer Herb McMillan; librarian Jerry Boyer; Quartermaster Darrel Girod; Song Leader Bob Dyer; Yell Leaders Jack Cooper and Buddy Gregson and Troop Bugler Bob Strayer.

An investiture service was held for Scout Don Case. He was presented his pin by Neighborhood Commissioner Wendell Ewing. Scoutmaster Bob Dandorf presented him with his neckerchief and troop insignia.

Neuner Will Handle Grand Jury Probe Of Negro Shooting

PORTLAND, Oct. 16 (AP)—Attorney General George Neuner will handle a grand jury probe of the police shooting of a negro at Multnomah county court at 10 a. m. here tomorrow.

The investigation was asked by Portland groups after a coroner's jury found the shooting justified as self defense. Ervin Jones was killed by Detective Bard Purcell during a search for another negro wanted for murder.

Nineteen of the peaks of the Andes mountains exceed 20,000 feet in elevation.

Kiwanis Names W. W. McKinney To Presidency

The Salem Kiwanis club will be headed next year by Attorney W. W. McKinney. It was disclosed with a report of the nominating committee at the Tuesday noon luncheon.

The nominating committee, led by Secretary T. Harold Tomlinson, named but one person to each major office, leaving a contest only for four members of the board of directors.

Guy Hickok was nominated for first vice president; Phil Schnell, second vice president. Glenn McCormick, treasurer. Directors will be chosen from Dr. Charles Campbell, Barney Van Onsened, J. M. Devers, Carl Charlton, Dr. David B. Hill, Floyd Shepard, Roy Rice and Dr. Charles Durden.

Sgt. Frederick Marion Hoblitt of Silverton, veteran marine who fell prisoner to the Japanese with their capture of Corregidor, and who was on the first plane of repatriated Americans to be flown out of Tokyo after V-J day, gave a graphic picture of his experiences. He particularly praised the work of B-29s, which leveled an area all around his prison camp without hitting the camp itself.

Hoblitt said of all the men of many nationalities in prison camps "the American boy stood out above all the rest," and "I thank God I am an American."

Employers Still Liable Despite Bankruptcy Move

An employer does not escape payment of contributions to the state industrial accident commission by going into bankruptcy, the state supreme court held in an opinion Tuesday.

Justice Percy R. Kelly, in reversing Circuit Judge Arlie G. Walker, Polk county, held that contributions due the commission are in the same category as taxes. The law provides that a man who goes into bankruptcy still must pay his taxes.

The decision involved John H. Aebi, logging and sawmill operator at Oceanlake. He owed the commission \$789 and then went bankrupt. Judge Walker ruled he did not have to pay any of the obligation but this order was revoked by the supreme court.

Alfred Keller Will Join Willamette School of Music

Alfred Keller, Portland attorney, former concertmaster of the Portland symphony and first violinist for the New York and Cincinnati symphony orchestras, will join the Willamette university music school faculty October 25, it was announced Tuesday by Dean Melvin H. Geist.

After several years of study under European artists, Keller played from 1927 until 1937 with symphony orchestras throughout the country as first violin. While playing the violin as a profession Keller studied law on the side and in 1940 passed the Oregon bar examination. Since that time he has been practicing law in Portland. The lawyer-violinist will teach courses in elementary and advanced violin and related subjects.

CHILD CARE URGED

PORTLAND, Oct. 16 — Implying that Lanham act funds be continued, the Portland Council of Social Agencies said today their curtailment would leave 675 school children in this area without nursery and day care facilities. The funds are to be withdrawn by Oct. 31.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Don't glare at me, Olds—YOU'RE the one who yearned for the open road again!"

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