

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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British Propose Advance

British leaders are more advanced in their thinking than our own at the moment. While the initiative for creating the United Nations organization was with the United States, neither President Truman nor Secretary Byrnes has said anything that would extend the authority of the new organization. This seems quite urgent in view of developments since the charter was written. In Great Britain, however, Anthony Eden, former foreign secretary, called boldly for the review of the veto power of the big powers in the security council, calling it an anachronism. The next day Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin took a step farther when he urged establishment of a directly-elected world assembly with legislative powers. The important thing to note is that both labor and conservative party spokesmen agreed on vesting additional authority in the United Nations organization.

The veto power is quite indefensible. The powerful nations must manifest a willingness to submit to a majority vote in the security council without retaining the right of individual veto. While Russia has been a staunch advocate of this right, its retention gives that same right to China and France which really are quite impotent now as world powers.

Regrettably our public officials have spent a good deal of time "roughing" Russia in their speeches. Thus Senator Johnson of Colorado in a speech in the senate last week said the United States should use its power, including that of the atomic bomb, to enforce world peace; that we should tell Russia we wouldn't stand for being "pushed around" by her. It has not been noted that Russia is pushing us around anywhere. But our attitudes have served to repel Russia, make her crawl into her shell and grow more isolationist. In reading speeches like that of Johnson or of Senator Wheeler, Russia may well inquire, "Who's shoving?"

The United States should use its great powers affirmatively. Boldness and vision are required at the moment to give vitality to the newly-born United Nations organization. Instead of deserting the infant, as many publicists seem prone to do, our leaders should nourish it and encourage its growth. President Truman shows doubtful wisdom in just dumping into the lap of UNO the accumulated disagreements of the big powers. That might very well smother the infant in its crib. Surely we can effect some orderly settlement of the war issues and then give the United Nations a healthy start. And we should be ready to go as far as Mr. Eden recommends, immediately, and cancel the power of veto.

Failure At Conference

The mountain of the labor-management conference in Washington labored and brought forth not even a mouse. On every important issue there was no agreement between the two parties represented. The CIO plea for recommendation of immediate, substantial wage increases was killed, being opposed both by AFL and the employer groups. Management's plea for the principle of union responsibility met with labor opposition. The parties could not even agree on getting up fact-finding or other machinery for settling or preventing disputes. About all that emerged in the way of a resolution was one calling for the strengthening and expanding of the federal conciliation service. The others were mere pious phrases.

John L. Lewis took the spotlight at the close as he had at the beginning. He scored the labor groups for being divided among themselves—John L., the great divider, himself! He pointed to the unity prevailing among representatives of employers and called on labor to put its house in order and unite on policies. This stance, in view of Lewis's previous course, will make even more bitter the strife between CIO and the Green-Lewis combination of AFL and UMW.

The 1945 conference failed, as did a previous similar conference held in 1919 after the first world war. Perhaps too much was attempted. Chiefly the tensions are so great that neither side is willing to make any compromise, preferring the traditional method of resort to strikes and lockouts if direct negotiations fail.

The result is not merely negative, it is a minus quantity. Industrial peace is set back in consequence.

One Issue At Election

Since the only proposition to receive an affirmative vote in the special election last June was the one on the purchase of the Bush Pasture tract, that is the only one that should be re-submitted at the special election next January 11. All other propositions should be held over until the May election.

The parking meter question can go over until then without serious difficulty. The question of franchise to Salem Electric received a negative vote in the June election on top of a previous negative some months before.

The one matter which the discovery of technical invalidity affects is the Bush Pasture purchase. That invalidity was due to the city's own error. The people should be given the chance to rectify that error without having the ballot cluttered up by other questions.

One chemist says we should drop our atomic bombs in the river. Wildfifers will object to that, fearing the radio-active bombs will kill the fish. There even is protest against using bombs as depth charges in tests against warships for fear they would destroy the fish in the sea. Still, the Pacific is 70 million square miles in size, as Admiral Nimitz explained at the beginning of the war, so even an A-bomb wouldn't interfere with the ocean's fish life.

Nominating Assembly

The Capital Journal solemnly pontificates against any party assemblies to make nominations for the vacant seat in congress in this district. With its democratic leanings, perhaps it sees an opportunity through a multiplicity of republican candidates a chance to elect a democrat. And the democrats have already called a nominating assembly of which its congressional committee would be a nucleus.

What we favor for republicans is a representative assembly, with delegates apportioned on the basis of each county's vote for James W. Mott in the last election. That would be fully representative of the district, of such size and distribution that no charge of "packing" could be made; and should enlist united support of party members.

Such an assembly will not restrict any one from being nominated by an assembly, but it would show them up as self-starters running on their own steam.

Lumber Strike Ends

Monday the whine of the saws will be heard in lumber mills over the state, and the smell of fresh-cut lumber will fill the air. The sound and the smell will be most welcome. Workers will be glad to get back on a steady payroll at comfortable wages; mill owners will be pleased to be turning out lumber again; dealers will rejoice at the prospect of renewal of stocks; builders will be really jubilant over the promise of getting materials.

The unions did not get all they asked for, though they held out until they inched above the CIO settlement. On a dollars and cents basis the CIO workers have fared better because they lost no time, and within a short time they probably can get concessions of another 2½%. AFL gratified its pride by nicking the bosses for the higher figure. But we may well leave the rivals to appraise their own gains and losses. The country can be happy that the strike is over and the mills will quickly all be running again.

Interpreting The Day's News

By James D. White
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 1.—(P)—Through China flow two of the world's largest and most riotous rivers, the Yangtze and the Yellow.

Both rise in the remote central Asian uplands and flow 3000 miles across China's scarred and troubled land before they dump their load of silt wearily in the Yellow sea.

Their whims affect the lives of tens of millions of Chinese, often fatally, and their whims are uncontrolled.

China has a plan to do something about the Yangtze, but apparently hasn't decided what can be done about the Yellow river, which has changed its course dozens of times in recorded history, flooding vast areas and setting the stage for famine.

Yangtze River Dam Planned
For the Yangtze, American and Chinese engineers are working on plans for a dam, to be the first in a series which the Chinese already refer to as the Yangtze valley administration.

The long-range goal is to build a system of flood-control and power dams around Ichang where the Yangtze roars down out of the Szechuan shelf through its famous gorges, just before it spreads out through the flat land of the Hankow area. Special locks and canals would enable steamers as big as Liberty ships to go all the way up to Chungking, nearly 1500 miles from the coast. The project would produce the biggest concentration of hydroelectric power in the world, irrigate 60,000,000 acres of land, and regulate water flow to reduce floods through the 1000-lower valley that leads to the sea.

This project has been outlined by John L. Savage of the U. S. bureau of reclamation, who drew plans for Grand Coulee, Boulder and Shasta dams in this country.

Project Will Cost \$300,000,000
Latest reports from Chungking say that the first big dam to be started has been scaled down because of cost and the length of time it would take to build it. From a \$1,300,000,000 dam taking ten years to build the plans have been slashed to a \$300,000,000 dam which can be finished in six years. Within a radius of 300 miles live more people than the entire population of the United States.

The Yangtze is also a great trade artery, which the Yellow river is not. But the Yellow is even more of a flood problem. After it wanders through the inner Mongolian plateau and cuts down through the Shansi-Shensi massif, it has to find its way across a flat plain some 500 miles to the sea.

Slowed down, it dumps its silt and thus builds up its own bed, whereupon it breaks out through man-made dykes and finds a new course periodically.

Reforestation Held Necessary
The Chinese recognize the dire need of reforestation of the uplands where this river gouges out its silt. They know that if they could cover the bare brown hills of northwest China with trees and grass the Yellow river would catch less silt and would be less subject to spring flooding.

They have considered various ideas about how to harness this violent river just before it reaches the plain, to lessen floods and to irrigate the great fertile flatlands which it now devastates from time to time.

Right now they are faced with a more immediate problem. This is whether to keep the Yellow river in its present channel, which partially flows into the Yangtze through the Grand canal, or restore it to its pre-1938 channel farther north. The river left the old channel in 1938 when the Chinese blew up the dykes to stop a Japanese advance.

The "old channel" wasn't very old—only about 75 years. Before that "China's sorrow" had flowed somewhere else.



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A Job for An Expert

The Literary Guidepost

By Howard W. Blakeslee

ATOMIC ENERGY IN WAR AND PEACE, by Gessner G. Hawley and Edward W. Leifson (Reinhold, \$2.50).

This book retells the facts and principles given in the official Smyth report of the war department. But the new book explains the facts with examples that are easier to understand than the official account.

Hawley is chief technical editor of the publisher; Leifson is head of the physics department at the University of Nevada.

The book also gives a word and model picture of atomic energy and atomic explosion which most readers can understand without too much study.

The authors draw a very clear picture of reasons why producing atomic power that will be either economical or more useful than steam, oil or hydroelectric power is beset with serious difficulties. They say it is a fairly safe guess that there will not be any atomic-power planes or autos for an indefinite future.

CHALLENGE AT CHANGSHA, by Paul Hughes (Macmillan, \$2.50).

The third battle of Changsha, as 1941 ended and 1942 started, is the subject of this novel, written by a diligent author and rewarding for the diligent reader. If it's a little too talky at the beginning, that's in part because of the method, which pays off in the closing chapters. Hughes offers a considerable variety of characters, American, Chinese and Japanese. He seems most successful in transcribing incident; the story of Sgt. Tanaka and the girl Lan is a blood-curdling masterpiece.

LEAVES OF GRASS, by Walt Whitman, preface by Bernard Smith (Knopf, \$2).

A pocket-sized edition of 550 pages, this is "an exact transcription" of the 10th edition supervised by Whitman and published in 1892, but omitting First and Second Annexes.

With only a brief preface and uncluttered with notes, this is a pure "rendezvous with my poems," which have been called the greatest written by any American.

Light intensity, climate and soil produce marked variations in the nutritive value of fruits and vegetables.

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—World War III is in the making, testifies Patrick Hurley, fresh from China.

We are drifting toward war with Russia with certainty and speed, asserts democratic senator Johnson of Colorado.

These are not extraordinary, but rather common utterances of general opinion.

Yet in China the issue is moving toward stabilization. Through the strained honey-bunk of political arguments, events are penetrating inevitably. The Chinese army has our modern equipment and training.

The communists had only the arms they were able to steal or capture from the Japs. The course of nature, therefore, required the communists to fight and lose, or retire to the northern hills. They are doing both.

Transportation Provided
The United States army has provided transportation to the Chinese to extend their reconquest of their country. This is natural, as the established government of South China (Chiang Kai-shek and the Kuomintang) was our ally and member of the big five of the United Nations.

No government anywhere recognizes the communists government of the northern provinces. They got no lend lease. Russia could not furnish the communists arms except by treacherous violation of the UNO agreements. Stalin thus has let the latest China affair work toward its natural destiny, and so have we.

The bulk of China thus seems likely to be stabilized soon, but its communist problem may not be solved. The communists back in their mountain lair will never be a threat to an equipped China, unless they get Russian arms, and Russia cannot furnish these under its world treaties. But a solution of their status will remain.

Solution Something Else
This example of the progress

of affairs is typical of the condition elsewhere in the world. In Europe, the political conflicts raised by communism are marching event by event toward stabilization though not solution.

The Austrian election settled the question there, excluding the communists. The French elections finally caused the communists to congeal with their worst enemies the socialists, or threaten to do so. To date, communism seems working toward a lower level of power in France. Elsewhere, the world is settling down one way or another, sometimes fitfully, toward a new status quo.

My private diplomatic information suggests that as soon as it does settle down, renewed Russian cooperation is in prospect.

Politics, Not War
The enigmatic policy of the soviets has been authoritatively pictured to me as a diplomatic game to hold the UNO world peace agreements in abeyance until Stalin could find out how much he could get otherwise; how much territory and power he could accumulate around the world, before entering upon the San Francisco deal to maintain thereafter a permanent world status quo. It is pressure politics he is playing, not a war game, our best-informed people think.

If they are wrong in their current waiting game (which seems working well enough so far), it must be said respect for Russian warpower is not high anywhere on this continent.

Russia did not have much power in this past war except endless manpower. Her weapons were not superior. She has no air force today, comparable to Britain, much less to ours. She has no fleet. She cannot threaten the world by either sea or air.

War Unthinkable
Her vast land armies could overrun Europe and Asia only if and after the United States demobilizes. Until we destroy our armed superiority, dismantle our planes and ships, war is unthinkable for the Russians.

Eager as our soldiers are to get home, I often wonder if our demobilization policy is justifiable by the condition of the world as it is. While mothers, fathers, sons, husbands are protesting the slowness of their return to peace, the obvious world situation rather suggests the nation may be moving faster than prudence warrants.

In any event, war with Russia can come only through attack by her. This nation lacks the spirit of aggression. While some people may think, if they do not say, that now is the time to end the Russian threat to world peace, this nation has no heart for such tactics.

What we want is peace with Russia, and we simply do not know how to get it. Appeasement failed. By it we brought Russia out of isolation up to harassing in the UNO, but we have not been able to get her to drink. She was then walking away with everything loose in the world.

Impasse Arrives
Now, our insistence upon reason and diplomatic defense of the Atlantic Charter freedoms has brought a diplomatic impasse beneath which events are turning more our way. We did not fall for the communist propaganda in China, urging and trying to frighten us away from our duty to the established government, our ally.

Add all these factors up and you get no frightening conclusions. You get only a strained

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

Prudential Insurance company sold its New Bligh building. In Portland several office buildings owned by insurance companies have been sold.

A transfer of title makes no more floor space for tenants, however. Sometimes it is accompanied by a raise in rents; but that provides no additional space for occupancy. What then will people do who must have room? The ready answer may be, as it is for meeting the housing shortage: Build more office buildings. But any seasoned investor is chary about that. The memory of the Empire State building and of other ambitious towers is too vivid.

There is this additional barrier: The high cost of construction and of building operation. An office building is a long-time investment. To build at current high prices would require rentals much higher than those prevailing, to meet taxes, operating costs and give a modest return on capital.

In Portland, for example, the state used to pay around 80c or \$1.00 per square foot per year for rentals. That is going up to \$1.20 now. In a new building the charge would have to be from \$1.50 to \$2.00 a square foot to make it pay out. Investors will hesitate to take on the risk of maintaining occupancy at such high rentals over the necessary period.

The answer may be considerable decentralization. I notice that in Portland a one-story clinic building will be erected out in what has been a residential district to provide offices for 20 doctors. The ground cost is much lower than downtown, the one-story type of construction is economical and the operating cost is low—no elevator expense.

There will be solutions found, without doubt. Necessity is still fertile as a mother of invention. But no one is going to wave a wand and conjure up attractive office space for dentists and doctors fresh out of the army and navy. It will take planning—and money.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

INQUIRES ABOUT COMMITTEE

To the Editor:

Your "It Seems to Me" editorial on the recent action of the federal house appropriations committee in deleting the appropriations for the Detroit and Derena reservoirs in the Willamette valley comes at a time when the Willamette valley is again largely under water.

Oregon as a whole and the Willamette valley in particular would be interested to learn if Oregon is represented on this committee, and if so, just how did our members vote.

The power barons are carrying on a feud against the government's power program and our editorial is to be commended in its fairness in presenting to the property owners of the Willamette valley the highlights of this feud.

The U. S. engineers have developed a very fine project, tending to eliminate the yearly flooding of the valley, and these projects should not be denied Oregon just because the power barons have an axe to grind.

If Oregon is represented on this committee, I feel certain that its representatives vote for Oregon rather than the power barons, and if I am wrong I trust you will correct me.

Yours truly,
E. G. Kingwell.

Editor's Note: Oregon is not represented on the house appropriations committee. Friday the house voted to restore the flood control items rejected by the committee.

Summer School Interest Evined By 105 Students

Results of a questionnaire given to Willamette students last week revealed that 105 students, predominately sophomores and juniors, are interested in attending a summer session next year. The majority of these students want a 10-week session which would earn them 10 semester hours of credit.

The object of the questionnaire was to determine when and what kind of summer session should be planned, if any, and what courses would be offered.

situation, a difficult problem, which, if properly and insistently managed in a truly American manner should not lead to war, but to a negotiated genuine understanding of a new world status.

Practical Religion

—by Rev. John L. Knight, Jr.,
Counselor on Religious Life,
Willamette University.

Professor Palmer, of Harvard University, used to tell the story of a young boy who was lying in bed, very late one morning. His mother called and called but still the lad did not appear on the scene downstairs. Finally his mother went to his room and said, "Aren't you ashamed of lying here so late?" to which the boy answered, "Yes, mother, I am ashamed, but I would rather be ashamed than get up."

Modern civilization seems to be saying this same thing to Christ. We are admittedly ashamed of certain evils, injustices, and inequalities which exist in our everyday world, but we are too comfortable and complacent to get up. Our Christian conscience must become strong enough to arouse us to action.

Election Will Cost \$18,000; Notices Sent

Plans for the special election to be held Friday, January 11, to choose a successor to the late Rep. James W. Mott, 1st Oregon district, are under way by Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell.

David O'Hara, in charge of the state elections bureau, said the election would be confined to 10 counties, with the polls open between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. It was believed unlikely there will be any special counting boards, thus reducing the cost, which O'Hara estimated at \$18,000.

Of this amount, the state's share will not exceed \$2500. Voters pamphlets are not printed in connection with special elections. The law provides that counties shall provide the ballots, pay rentals for voting booths, and defray the expense of the election clerks and judges. Judges and clerks now receive \$4 a day.

Sheriffs, under the law, must distribute the ballot boxes and arrange the voting booths. Clerks and judges of the election will be provided by the county clerks. Sample ballots will be furnished on the same basis as at primary and general elections.

Notices of the special election already have been forwarded to the county clerks.

Nominations for the special election must be filed with the state department not later than Monday, December 31. Such nominations can be made either by assembly of not less than 250 voters or by petitions carrying approximately 3600 names.

Short Form for Taxes Gets Set For High Court

Efforts to advance arguments in the appealed case of F. H. Young, Oregon Business and Tax Research, against the State Tax commission, involving validity of the 1945 legislative act providing for short state income tax forms, were being made here Saturday. The supreme court indicated that it would hear the arguments this week, provided the briefs are filed by that time.

Young contends that the bill signed by Gov. Earl Snell was not the one approved by the legislature. Circuit Judge George Duncan, Marion county, recently held the law valid.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Something like this would happen just as I was getting a nice start as an only child!"

At
Stevens
Diamond Solitaires, Wedding Rings or Matched Sets. You will find our Collection Complete.
Make your selection for Christmas giving now.
Budget Payments
STEVENS & SON
JEWELRY
339 Court St.