

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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More Acres, Fewer Farms

The nation as a whole, becoming increasingly the breadbasket of the world, can well be glad that there has been an increase of 82,000,000 acres—about 1 1/3 per cent—in farmed land since 1940. But the fact that there are 86,000 fewer farms isn't so heartening.

The latter disclosure of the census bureau can be interpreted in many ways—that large-scale operation makes for economies with which smaller operators cannot compete; that war years have led many persons to sell their tracts and accept the high wages of industry; that lack of help has forced many ranchers to go out of business. Whatever the interlocked reasons, it is doubtful that the 1940-45 period can be termed one of "normalcy" insofar as a definite trend is concerned.

Of major interest to us in the west is the fact that all three Pacific coast states have gained both in farm acreage and in the number of farms. Only 10 of Oregon's 36 counties were in the category, however—Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Lane, Lincoln, Malheur and Marion. And seven counties lost in both classifications—Benton, William Hood River, Linn, Polk, Tillamook and Umatilla. The others gained or lost in one category or the other, but there were enough increases to put Oregon on the plus side both in acreage and farms.

That is as it should be—and probably will be in increasing proportions as many servicemen, drawn from the soil by the years of war, return to buy their own long-dreamed-of plot or get back into production otherwise. But they should be well aware that the interest on present land prices will eat up a lot of profits, and profits may not be as fat as formerly.

It's all very well to preach "back to the farm," but farming now has become so competitive that it's more important for the veteran to look to his own economic good than to try to coast on the national statistics.

Civil War Fading Out

The Chinese civil war turns out to be similar to other internal wars in China, chiefly sound and fury. The nationalist troops are entering Mukden and Changchun without communist resistance, although a few weeks ago bloody conflict was presaged with the communists over occupation of Manchuria.

The communists hold control over large areas of northern China and Inner Mongolia but they seem to be fairly well content if they are not pushed around too much by the nationalists. They assert their communism is really democracy, although they claim to adhere to Marxian principles.

Some kind of working relationship may emerge which will avert real conflict in China and still permit the unity which is essential for China's political and economic reconstruction. While we as a nation are genuinely concerned over what happens in China the responsibility is China's and we can't successfully dictate the course the Chinese must follow.

Lumber Surplus

Service men returning from the Pacific report huge stocks of lumber piled on islands from Hawaii to Guam and probably well on to Australia. This is added to the stocks held at terminal bases on this coast. The lumber was accumulated when it was anticipated that at least an additional million men would be moved into the Pacific theatre of war who would require housing, hospitals, warehouses, docks, headquarters, etc. The ending of the war virtually wipes out need for much new lumber unless it be for the occupation troops in Japan. The lumber ought to be returned to this country where it is urgently needed. It can be sold as surplus and go into the housing of the same men who would have occupied the barracks planned in the Pacific.

It would be interesting to get from the army and navy an inventory of the millions of board

feet of lumber they hold on this coast and through the Pacific. Such information would confirm the view here expressed that it is large in amount and definitely surplus.

Housing is top priority as far as need is concerned here at home. The government is concerned and anxious to "do something". Turning this lumber over for civilian use here would be one practical step toward speeding up house construction.

Five-cent Fare

New York must be about the only city remaining where the prevailing fare for street-car travel is five cents. San Francisco's municipal railway kept a five cent charge until it bought out the private company when it went to seven cents and now considers going to ten cents. In New York the five-cent fare has long been a sacred political cow. When the private subways groaned under the burden of hauling people for that fare and went into receivership the city finally took them over but kept the fare at five cents. As a result the city has an operating loss of about \$50,000,000 this year, besides loss of taxes on the former private property.

The board of transportation has a program of expansion and rehabilitation which runs to \$632 million, financing of which may result in taking the five-cent fare "for a ride." The experience shows it still takes money to make the mare go, even under socialism.

Don't Lose Next War

It will never do for the United States to lose a war to Germany or Japan. Then we might expect execution of our statesmen and military leaders and at least imprisonment for those handling bond campaigns and money-raising efforts for war causes.

A lost war might well mean overturn of our Zaibatsu (business hierarchy) too. And think of the upset that might be caused if some conquering general ordered that the sharecroppers in the south get title to their lands or that the big ranches in eastern Oregon be split up, or that "niggers" get jobs.

No, we dare not lose the next war.

Interpreting The Day's News

By James D. White
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 13.—(AP)—Six U. S. marine fliers have been cooling their heels in a remote north China village since their plane was forced down Nov. 10.

The official marine version is that the plane was on a routine flight from Tientsin to Peiping, got lost, ran out of gas, and came down about 80 miles west of Tientsin.

Names have not been announced nor has the village been specified, but 80 miles west of Tientsin would put them in the mountains west of Kaopietian station on the Peiping-Hankow railway, possibly in the valley that leads up to the Hai-ling, or the western tombs of the Manchus.

The mountains roundabout are high and rugged, and in the past have raised crops of young Chinese who left the crowded, bare land to live as bandits.

Other marine fliers have found the plane, half covered with brush, and seen its tracks where it landed and which have since been ploughed over.

Today a marine transport plane flew over and dropped food and winter clothing to the six stranded men, because it is getting very cold in those parts and there isn't much to eat. Negotiations for their release, both local and through Chungking, thus far have failed to free them.

Because this area is within the territory nominally controlled by the Chinese communists, the question was put up to communist representatives in Chungking, who announced on Dec. 8 that the fliers were being released.

Matter of Established Policy
During the war against Japan the communists rescued many American fliers from behind Japanese lines, and they would have little reason now to hold these six as a matter of sensible policy.

Getting the local commander, who may or may not be a communist, to release them is another matter under present circumstances.

As mentioned, this is bandit country, and the marines well could be held by bandits who happen to claim right now that they are communists.

There has been no mention of a ransom, but reports thus far have been meager and the possibility cannot be counted out.

Chinese bandits can be brutal, and childlike. There was the elderly American missionary who was shot in cold blood by nervous bandits who held him up in his summer home.



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News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Secretary of State Byrnes goes to Moscow! He says the Iranian government will make the trek also. So both Mohammed and the mountain go to Moscow.

The senate, as all knowing individuals here, is worried. Realizing this, before his departure, the state secretary took both the senators and the press into his confidence in off-the-record meetings.

The attitude of U. S. worried senators and individuals is this: The Truman-Byrnes foreign policy has been, by comparison with the appeasement policy of the Roosevelt administration, designed to goad the Russians to ever greater war against the nazis.

We have not established much, except our position in China. We have lost in Iran. The Russians are in the process of conquering that country. Have Won and Lost

But at least we have not lost abjectly. We have won and lost, by defending our position, the Roosevelt Atlantic Charter, against make-believe freedom for peoples and world-democracy. We have ceased to lose every conference.

We ceased our losing because we had an adamant attitude, for what we believed was right. Does Mr. Byrnes' trip to Moscow mean we have abandoned that attitude?

Frankly, the senators think it may. They think generally appeasement of Britain (with whom) is to be followed by appeasement of Russia (with whom) bombs, concessions, eye-blinking regarding Iran, China, and similar pretensions that conquest of Europe and Asia by Russia is unthinkable.

"Peace in Our Time"
The mere fact that Mr. Byrnes goes to Moscow with atom bomb in hand reminds them of Chamberlain at Munich. That also meant "peace in our time." Remember?

Their understanding is reinforced by two facts which I

GRIN AND BEAR IT



Frankly, we prefer someone with an army or navy experience—this firm has only a couple of them.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

his reputation did not suffer seriously in the defeat of the Dewey-Bricker ticket. Out of office in 1945 he has an opening for political re-entry in the senate seat vacated when Harold Burton went on the supreme court. A democrat was named to the place but Bricker is expected to be a candidate. He has a strong following in Ohio, having been elected attorney general and three times governor, so his prospects for winning the senatorial contests are regarded as favorable. A seat in the senate will get him back into the political main current in good season for the 1948 campaign.

One dare not count out Thomas E. Dewey, governor of New York. His friend, Herbert Brownell, is still national chairman, and New York's 90 votes is a powerful initial bloc for any candidate. But Dewey has a more immediate task than campaigning for the 1948 nomination. He first must be re-elected governor of New York; and don't doubt the democrats are laying for him with well-sharpened broadswords. Senator Mead is regarded as a likely candidate, but the one who might be even more of a threat is James A. Farley, former postmaster general and democratic national chairman. Farley left the cabinet in protest against a third term, but he stayed regular in his voting. Now he is said to cherish the ambition to become governor.

Dewey took a setback in the New York city election when he prevailed on the republicans to nominate an ex-Tammany man, Judge Goldstein, who made a miserable showing in the election. This miffed many republicans and lowered the governor's political prestige. However New York's republican strength is largely upstate and there is no indication that Dewey has lost this. His potency as a 1948 aspirant hinges largely on his showing in his own state in 1946. If he is defeated, or if he squeaks through with a narrow margin his presidential strength will be slight. Republicans have never renominated a loser; and at present there is little indication they will break that rule.

President Truman, organization candidate for vice president, is clearly in line for the democratic nomination in 1948. The organization can hardly desert him, and the radical wing, which would prefer Henry Wallace, will hardly have sufficient strength to force their own choice on the party convention. The party suffers from having few in the "runner-up" class. The preeminence of Franklin D. Roosevelt as party chieftain overshadowed other leaders and none can claim either his mantle or his power. But the democrats ought to be looking over other entries in the paddock besides Truman. They may need them.

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

FO'CASTLE WALTZ, by Louis Slobodkin (Vanguard; \$2.75)

Louis Slobodkin has demonstrated in the past that he is a man of many talents. He is, first of all, a sculptor of considerable note, also an artist and illustrator, a lecturer and writer of books for boys and girls. To these accomplishments must now be added that of story teller for grownups, and in that category he rates with the best.

The story that Slobodkin tells here is an account of a trip to Argentina he made in his younger days in the crew of the S.S. Herminita, a little freighter. Slobodkin's story is complete—from the day he decided to ship on a freighter because he had seen nothing of the world until he comes back home a little wiser and perhaps a little sadder.

In those days—apparently in the early 20s—life aboard a freighter had not required some of the refinements which go with service in our merchant marine today! The work was hard, especially for a youngster fresh out of a sculptor's studio; the food was of dubious quality—wormy oatmeal for breakfast, greasy pork chops for lunch, leathery chicken for Sunday dinner. Bathing was a luxury and had to be accomplished with one bucket of water.

Nevertheless, life on the Herminita had its interesting moments, provided, in the main, by a varied collection of crew members—Al and Mush and Scotty and Portuguese Peter, who liked "unsalted butta" on his bread, Pat the Oiler and others.

Slobodkin's style is sharp and direct. He has a lot to tell and he wastes no time in the telling. His trip covered five or six weeks but an incredibly large number of things happened, all of which the author avers are the truth. At any event, his story is a good one throughout.

FOUR HOUSES BURN

PORTLAND, Dec. 13.—(AP)—Fire destroyed four small houses on St. Helens road north of Linnton last night. Owners estimated dam-

Salem Clothes Distributed to Norwegians

The many people in Salem and vicinity who made contributions to the clothing drive for Norwegian relief will be interested to know that not only is such clothing reaching Norway but that it is being distributed under government supervision free of charge and on the basis of need, Theodore G. Nelson, chairman of Norwegian relief for Marion county, said Thursday. Letters from different parts of Norway now reaching Salem people testify to that fact. In a letter dated November 2, to E. F. Arneson of South Cottage street, his brother Gustav at Nordstrand Heights, Norway, writes: "Now there is being distributed free American clothing throughout the country. They are being distributed on the basis of provident need. Because of the generous supply of clothing which you have sent us direct it has not been necessary for us to seek any help from that source."

Johanna Svensvold, an aunt of Ivy Swenewold of Salem, writes from Sandnes: "Much clothing and many shoes have come here from America. Coats and other articles have been distributed in Sandnes and I have heard that those who received them were very pleased with what was allotted to them. Those in greatest need are provided for first." After thanking for clothing sent to her direct, Miss Swenewold's aunt expressed special gratitude for a carton of soap.

Legion Plans Christmas Fete

Plans for entertainment at the annual Christmas party of the American Legion Capitol post No. 9 on Monday evening, December 17, are practically completed report James Garvin and Lawrence Osterman who comprise the entertainment committee.

A feature attraction of the evening, Garvin said, will be a girl champion baton-twirler who spins a blazing baton. Following the party usual refreshments will be served.

The Christmas program will take place immediately following a short business meeting. All veterans and members of both Salem's Legion posts are invited, Garvin said.

Women's Club Hears of Paris

Pre-war Paris as seen in 1938 was the highlight of a talk by Amanda Anderson at the 6 o'clock dinner meeting of Toastmistress last night at the Quella. Esther Guley was a toastmistress for the program and Grace Bottler conducted parliamentary practice.

A nominating committee was elected last night composed of Marguerite Gleason, Mrs. E. G. Ricketts and Mrs. James Hartley. Lois Hamer was introduced as a new member of the club.

Because of many members planning to be out of town during the holidays it was voted to transpose the December 27 and January 10 programs.

Building Permit Issued for House

Edith Eyre White was issued a building permit Thursday by the city building inspector's office to erect a one story dwelling at 340 S. 20th st., at an estimated cost of \$4000.

A permit was issued to W. H. Pettit to reroof a dwelling at 504 N. 14th st., at a cost of \$25. Frank N. Waters was granted a permit to repair an ice plant at 1551 Center st., at a cost of \$35.

Nora E. Kufner was granted a permit to alter a one story dwelling at 865 Pine st. at a cost of \$25.

MARINE ANGEL DOCKS

TACOMA, Dec. 13.—(AP)—Sailed from Calcutta, India, November 19, the SS Marine Angel docked at the port of Tacoma pier today with 2511 veterans aboard.

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