

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Return of the Japanese

The returning 4000 Japanese sailing from Portland on the transport Gen. W. H. Gordon are by no means as disconsolate as might be supposed. While some persist in believing that Japan has won the war, others who admit the truth are not reluctant to return to the land of their ancestors. They may be going to a country with a standard of living far lower than their own but they will be with those of their own race and look forward with relief to escaping the race prejudice which has pursued them in America. There are values other than creature comforts: the spirit of man has claims as well as his body.

The parents remember the discrimination against members of their own race who may have been qualified by education for professional work, and discrimination against Japs except for the jobs the whites did not want. They prefer to take their children home where the environment is more friendly even if the labor is harder and the returns meagre.

Fear of hostile acts or of discrimination has worked to keep many of the relocated Japs from returning to this coast. According to figures of the War Relocation authority, of the 112,000 Japanese who lived on this coast prior to relocation only 40.6 per cent are back in California, 33.6 per cent in Oregon and 26.9 per cent in Washington. The agitation raised by the hooligans thus "paid off" in frightening Japs and preventing their return, though those who have come back have generally suffered little abuse.

Not all of the relocation is due to fear of returning to this coast. Many found homes and employment elsewhere and are satisfied. Others know of the housing shortage here and do not care to buck it. While it is better to avoid concentrations of foreign population it does the coast no credit that the redistribution is partly forced by racial intolerance.

Though the relocation centers, except Tulelake, are closed, we have not heard the last of relocation. Secretary Ickes last week proposed the Japs should be reimbursed for their losses because of the involuntary transfer of residence. These claims will run into hundreds of millions of dollars. Added to the cost of maintaining the centers it makes the country pay a heavy price for west coast safety.

Agreement at Moscow

In the past the enthusiasm accorded initial reports of international conferences faded as subsequent understandings or misunderstandings developed. So the public is a bit chary about tossing a hat in air over the reports of agreement among the three foreign ministers who have just finished their meeting in Moscow. It is clear though that Byrnes and Bevin are much more cheerful than they were after the London conference which came to a dead end. The text of the agreement would seem to confirm their optimism. At least the new mission to Moscow has improved the tone of our relations with the USSR.

The question of procedure in preparing the treaties for Romania and Bulgaria, which made the road block at London was solved about on the lines of Byrnes' proposal at the former meeting. The big powers will prepare the treaties with the enemy states other than Germany but all will be submitted to a general peace conference next spring. This marks progress.

Items on the agenda which were packed with political high explosive—the atom bomb, China and Japan—were kept wet down. The previous proposal of the United States, Britain and Canada for a UNO control commission for the

Editorial Comment

UNJUSTIFIED CRITICISM

It is a matter of regret with citizens of the community to see the agitation stirred up about a recent incident at the state training school for boys. The incident referred to was the chastisement of two of the inmates deserving punishment. We of this community who have observed the school from the time it was first located in this vicinity, and have seen the trials and tribulations of the various superintendents working with incorrigible boys and an undermanned staff and at times very poor helpers, have always been sympathetic with the head of the school. On account of our proximity to the institution we know what is going on there and when an account of a justifiable punishment of two of the boys is heard and cry is raised for the ouster of M. D. Woolley, the superintendent, it is perfectly understandable why the local citizens feel outraged.

It is regrettable that two daily papers have to put on their sobriest acts when they know so little of the facts, and by their actions are helping create confusion and runarounds at the school. The power of the press should be used constructively instead of destructively as in the present case. As it is, their readers in this section suspicion that someone wants a job and they are taking this means of getting it.

Dr. Woolley is held in the highest respect in this community. We think he is doing the best possible with what he has to work with and are very pleased to see the state board of control standing by him. —Woodburn Independent.

Juvenile delinquency, results, most often, because of too much time on the hands of youth which is not directed along proper lines of endeavor. By the same token, adult delinquency is largely the result of such an abundance of spare time. Most everyone has more leisure because of these times of shorter work weeks, labor-saving appliances and the trend toward more personal liberty.

The fellow who is busy at his job, playing with his hobby, engaging in healthful recreation and devoting time to a schedule of study or self-improvement isn't getting into serious trouble—he just doesn't have time. —Oregon City Banner-Courier.

atom bomb was adopted (which passes the buck to that body). The powers agree to continue their backing of Chiang Kai-shek, and call for a unified and democratic China. We made concessions to meet Russia's demand for a voice in Japan's bossing. An 11-nation commission is to determine policies, but General MacArthur remains the single executive in charge. A four-power council will "advise" the general and review his policies. This seems quite complicated and will probably not work very well, but we can afford the concessions if the other gains stick.

Other points of friction seem to have been discussed but not decided, like Iran, Russo-Turkish relations. However a great deal seems to have been accomplished in this conference. Now let us hope the powers do not start disagreeing on the terms of their agreement!

River in Flood

If the weather bureau's prediction proves correct the Willamette river here will be at flood stage today. The estimate is for 31 feet of water above the low water mark, or about the same as three years ago.

Those living in the floor of the valley wonder where all the water is coming from. While it was rainy for days, the total downpour was not unusually heavy. The answer is that melting snows in the Cascades has swollen the streams to bring them to flood stage.

A real flood is always a devastating thing; but like other great catastrophes it has a certain fascination. The broad expanse of water, the surging, tawny currents, the logs and stumps and debris racing along with the current or tossed in a whirling eddy draw thousands of spectators. Man and his works seem quite helpless when nature's elemental forces break loose in wild fury.

Thanks to careful preliminary organization both of warning and of rescue service, it is not anticipated there will be the loss of life or of property such as was experienced in 1943. The disaster group of the Red Cross and of civil reserves was geared for prompt action, and evacuated people and livestock from the lowlands.

Once we know that safety is assured for those who live along the river we can enjoy, as spectacle, the scene of the great river in flood. Many will visit the river bank today.

News reports indicate that we may join France and other powers to cancel recognition of Franco in Spain. At the same time we are preparing to recognize Marshall Tito as boss in Yugoslavia and the soviet set-ups in Bulgaria and Romania. Tito fought the Germans while Franco is a legacy from Mussolini and Hitler. Both are totalitarian, and the bird of democracy loses a few feathers in the deal.

Market news: Prices of pickles to rise slightly. That's a sour note for just after Christmas.

Interpreting The Day's News

By Richard Bergthols
(Substituting for James D. White)

CHENGDEH, Manchuria, Dec. 30—(AP)—More than 1000 Chinese communists in a prison camp here are being given intensive "political training" to erase their communist philosophy and install theories of the Kuomintang central government, national army leaders report.

The prisoners, who range from piping-voiced youngsters to gaunt, stooped old farmers, are hearing lectures every morning and afternoon designed to create faith in and allegiance to the Chiang Kai-shek government.

"Our main job here is re-education," Maj. Gen. Liu Kuang-Ying told me. He is political adviser to the Central government army in Manchuria.

Not Reds at Heart
"Most of these people will most likely become good citizens," he said, "because they are not really communists at heart."

General Liu, who is in charge of all communist prisoners in Manchuria, operates this camp in what was formerly the Chinese district jail. Most of the prisoners live in barred cells. I saw many cells that housed six or seven men. And in one small cubicle I counted 13 men.

The general ordered all the 1156 prisoners out to stand at attention on the drill ground for my visit and agreed to my request to select individuals at random for questioning. He remarked, however, that all of them disclaimed any particular affiliation with communist ideology or the communist party.

One youngster said he was Kwan Hsing-Hua, 17, a farm-bred boy who had been working as a clerk at a mine when he joined the communist police guard.

Told U.S. No Good.
Kwan said he had been given two weeks of training by the communists, that they armed him with a Japanese rifle, which they said they had obtained from the Russians, and told him the communists were fighting for a greater China and that the Central government and the United States were "no good."

Another prisoner with a typical story identified himself as Liu Cheng-Wu, 30, a former peddler who was drafted by the communists north of Tientsin and had fought against the Japanese. He said his communist superiors told him the Central government was corrupt and that the United States was supporting it while the Russians were supporting the communists.

General Liu said he was giving the prisoners mass instruction in "spiritual cultivation, ethics, Chinese history, world politics, comparative study of political principles and general citizenship." One of the text books, he said, was "Destiny of China," by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.



Hell's Kitchen

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page 1)

began its work. Millions lived in wretched slums, in utter depravity. Vice, crime, disease flourished. Youth grew up as street gamins. Men and women were debauched.

Times have changed. Living conditions have greatly improved. Laws regulating light and air and sanitation in tenements have rescued families from the foul darkness in which "the other half" once lived. Better wages have lifted them from utter poverty. Parks, playgrounds, recreation facilities relieve the monotony of their existence.

This transformation has not come just because of the Salvation Army. The Army perhaps did less than such social reformers as Jacob A. Riis and Jane Adams and Florence Kelly to redeem humanity by aiming both at improving conditions and at removing some of the causes by which those conditions flourished: low wages, political corruption, no recreation. The Salvation Army has always kept in mind the "salvation" of the individual, regarding his personal redemption to decent living as fundamental for an improved world. But its open espousal of interest in those who were down-and-out drew attention of other groups to social problems.

In the present state of very general prosperity the "other half" or the "submerged tenth" or FDR's "one-third ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed" has been greatly reduced in number. One wonders if the Salvation Army hasn't lost its "customers." The "poor and lowly" are by no means as numerous as they were 15 years ago.

Perhaps not, but still there are

many whom fortune has played ill, many who have not had the strength of character to stand prosperity. Then there is moral wreckage in society which does not arise out of the state of the purse. So there is still work for the organization which the Booths founded; and perhaps more in years ahead than there has been recently. Miss Booth's recent birthday brings her into the news, and serves to refresh the public mind on the work of the organization in whose growth she played a very important part.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

THE ARMY'S "REASON" NOT APPARENT

To the Editor:

I note with interest your editorial of the 27 December, "We Can't Blame Them." I would like to make some comments.

For the entire duration of the war the army has hidden behind the excuse that it couldn't divulge its plans or intents. This has been true. However, behind that simple, irrefutable argument lies a multitude of sins. When I was first inducted I was told that the army had a reason for everything. It didn't take long to find out that anything the army did was done in the slowest, most inefficient manner possible. When the boys came back from overseas with 50 combat missions to their credit and were made instructors they were not allowed to teach what they knew would save other lives, because such material didn't agree with the army manual. Countless other things were the same. Any GI could tell the same story. "The army has a reason for everything." So personnel on the west coast are shipped east, and personnel on the east coast are shipped west. Is there really a reason, do you suppose? That is, a reason that contains one iota of good sense. Too many boys have seen too much country to make it seem plausible

that they were moved only for the most efficient operation of the army organization. You suggest that the army keep them busy. You have a newspaper office. You have a man who sets type. Now suppose you put two or three men in his place. All would have an easier time. But now put 20 men in that one man's place. Keep them busy? With what? I was an instructor of B-29 gunnery at Lowry field. When the school closed down last July about 100 instructors were left without jobs. From July until November when I was discharged, I performed no useful work. I was made clerk in the armament school. If I worked halfheartedly, my work took two hours a day. Two more men were brought in to help me. Keep busy? It is no wonder that men become restless. Men with families at home who need them. Men who have an education to complete. Men who can see years slipping away never to be regained.

I wasn't a solitary case. There were hundreds of men on Lowry field who did nothing but sweep the streets, pick up cigarette butts or do KP. The other occupation was lying in the good old "sack." All the while the discharge center was operating at 50 per cent capacity. The discharge of these men could have in no way hindered the discharge of high point overseas veterans.

The demobilization program has reached a disintegration for a very simple and obvious reason. The original high point men held key positions in all units. When they were discharged the replacements were the men in the next lower bracket. Next month the score was lowered and these men were discharged. Week after week, month after month this process continued. Disintegration is a fitting word but it is hardly a necessary condition.

After VJ day the army complained that their discharge machinery was not running smoothly and hence accounted for the slow rate of discharges. And yet veterans of 50 or more missions had been in the states for eight or nine months—doing nothing. They should have been home for that entire time. They had plenty well done their share of the fighting.

Peacetime military education is being advocated. Naturally, our officers would like to keep their jobs. They pay better than do those of the ordinary enlisted man of the lower grades. However, it is too bad that not more ordinary people cannot know the waste that is made of men's lives in the army. A year of "military education" would be six weeks of basic training and 46 weeks of KP. Is that what we will wish upon our youth?

I am out now, a civilian again. The army life is forgotten. But a lot of my buddies are still in. They want out too. What transportation shortage is holding up the boys stationed in the states? And yet they can't get out.

Why not leave the army for those who like it, and let others out? Some men like to make some use of their lives.

David F. Bates
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Salem, Oregon

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Oh, come on, Prof. Snodgrass—it's New Year's Eve—let's teach off a small one before we go!"

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, Dec. 30—The business prophecies for 1946 are taking a common line—predicting prices will go higher, and all the rest of the business picture will fit into that inflationary pattern, with higher general public earnings, a continued seller's market, and a high-level free flow of money.

The only thing I know for sure about it is that always in the past, when the great business prophets unanimously agreed on the future, it seldom turned out their way.

When Mr. Hoover was elected, all were sure there would be two cars in every garage and two chickens in every pot; yet within his presidential span we were at the depths of all time.

Depression Cured

Mr. Roosevelt, we all thought, at first, would surely cure the depression, but it never got cured. Then later we all thought it would never get cured, during the latter part of the Roosevelt regime, and along came the war and pushed us so high out of it we cannot yet see the ground through the economic stratosphere.

Thereafter, during the war, the great prophets all agreed there would be a terrific crash at the end, with great unemployment. Now here we are at the end, with our Christmas sales much higher than last year during the war, with more jobs untaken than men unemployed, and we are now thinking of a higher plane ahead—unanimously, as usual.

Let us look at the facts we have, atom by atom, and behind the atoms. They say there will be "higher prices." Prices generally are based on the availability of goods.

Shortages Now
When there are shortages any amount can be charged for goods, and collected from the people, if they have money as they do now.

But in the next year ahead we are planning to get back to our peacetime mass production. We have more machines and men than ever before. War has developed manufacturing shortcuts for production.

As production brings goods to the market, competition will be restored. This means not only competition in quality but in price.

It is quite clear then that the expectations of expanding production ahead will work against higher prices. Indeed, this will work gradually as production swells in the latter months of the year toward lower prices.

Unions Seek Raises
But the unions are wangling great, unprecedentedly large, wage increases from industry, and this development, coupled with the announced intention of the government to maintain a high price level, will surely force prices higher, they say. Yes, certainly this would seem to force an increase of the price of union-made goods. On the other hand, people have grown, during the war, to be satisfied with patches, with old things, with repaired machines.

If only the unions get these tremendous wage increases, and the rest of us must plod along on our same salaries in the face of higher prices for union-made goods, the common foresight of the business prophets may not prove true.

There has been every other kind of strike in this country, except a buyers strike. The conditions being created may force one.

Therefore, I believe the human element will determine the course of business for 1946. We know the economic factors. We do not know how the people will react to them.

Wage Trends?
We know the shortages of goods will not be completely cured by next year, but a plentiful supply will be restored in many lines. Union wages will

Practical Religion

—by Rev. John I. Knight, Jr.,
Counselor on Religion, Life,
Willamette University.

Every good picture or painting should be mounted in a frame compatible with its tone or meaning. Nothing is more detrimental to a good piece of art than for it to be poorly or improperly framed.

Consider the ways in which the figure of Christ has been framed in creeds, in ecclesiastical orders, and in social systems entirely incompatible with his character and his teachings. Nothing has been more detrimental to the Christian cause than that! It is high time that we begin to build a framework of living which will properly display the character and will of Christ.

be-up, but how many others? The administration wants high prices, but how can it move them higher than now in the face of the coming restoration of competition?

Will people pay the prices asked? Will labor's human-leadership strike on and hold back production? Will the human leadership of the administration accomplish its purposes, and to what degree?

With a congressional election ahead, how far will the spending faucets of inflation be turned still further?

These are matters no human can possibly now know.

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

RODIN, by Philip H. Adams; DEGAS, by Camille Maclair, adapted by Lillian Day; ROUAULT, by Edward Alden Jewell (published by Hyperion Press, distributed by De-Flaca & Pearce; each \$5).

Consisting of about 40 pages of reproductions, some eight or 10 of them in color, and a short, authoritative text, these books appear handily just in time for last-minute gifts.

But they're more than hand-some volumes for a library table. The subjects are two important painters and one sculptor, Degas and Rouault representative of a new creative era and Rodin of an old one. The texts, though sharply condensed, describe the place of each man in the art of our time and the reproductions, which are identified as to title, medium, size and provenance, are an aid to the student and a delight to the art lover.

Jewell clearly faced the most difficult task in writing about Rodoult... still alive and in his middle 70's. Degas and Rodin have won general acceptance. In the nearly three decades since they died, they have fallen neatly into a fixed position in art histories. The painter's laundresses, dancers, nudes and race-track scenes, though sometimes brutally frank, are recognized as an aspect of beauty, and the painter himself has become something of the same tart legendary figure as Whistler. The sculptor, so utterly lifelike that he never perturbed the lay public, as French modernists have done, is beginning in fact to lose the edge of his reputation among connoisseurs who ask where his sculpture begins and where his copying stops.

Rouault is more of a problem. He's an expressionist; what he feels in an object, rather than what he sees, is what he tries to express. The good American public is apt to demand of a painting something it can identify, and to shy off cannily from emotion; so Rouault's roughly drawn figures, his bold black outlines, his strong color have failed so far, despite several big exhibitions devoted to them, to make much headway with that ultimate judge; the man in the street.

On top of this Rouault is interested in social problems. He satirizes judges, he... but read for yourselves. Jewell is art editor of the New York Times. Maclair was formerly art critic of Le Figaro. Adams is director of the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts.

WHEAT PRICES SOLID

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29—(AP)—OPA said yesterday it had no plans for increasing wheat ceiling prices at this time.



Not just another ring—but an entirely new design, skillfully fashioned in 14kt. gold. A worthy setting for a Stevens flawless diamond.

Extended Payments
STEVENS & SON
330 Court St.