

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Greek Shipping

Slowly but steadily ocean commerce is resuming under private operation. During the war merchant shipping was under control of the allied governments, and private firms engaged in importing and exporting had to have government permission or allotment of cargo space for their operations. Foreign trade still is under some measure of government control if only for the exchange required in payment for cargoes, but it is veering more and more back into private hands.

The American Mail line again is operating on regular schedules to the orient. American-Hawaiian and Luckenbach lines are resuming inter-coastal shipping. Other lines are getting hold of ships and restoring former routes or venturing into new ones.

Not many foreign lines other than ships from Soviet Russia are calling at northwest ports but it will not be long before British and Norwegian ships will drop anchor in Columbia river and Puget Sound ports to take on or discharge cargo.

In the news is the report of the arrival of a Greek steamer, Elias Kulukundis, at Portland to open a monthly sailing service of Greek ships between the Pacific coast and the Mediterranean. This ship had called in Portland previously—in 1939, to pick up scrap iron and lumber for Japan (a bitter memory, to be sure). Its return underscores the fact that little Greece conducted a substantial shipping enterprise before the war. This business helped Greece, as similar business helped Britain and Norway, to pay for the goods it needed to import.

Shipping and trade come easy for the Greeks, because they began the business back in ancient times, pushing their marine commerce over the Mediterranean to the pillars of Hercules (Gibraltar) and founding colonies of which Syracuse on Sicily was chief. Modern Greeks have revived their country's activity in commerce. They do not go in for fancy liners as Mussolini crowded Italy to do. They go in for freighters, many of them slow and dirty luggers carrying the dull freight of the world. But the business pays. In view of Greek suffering during the past few years her people are doubtless more eager than ever to get into peacetime business that their country again may be self-supporting.

Investigation vs Action

This move on the part of the war department to investigate the so-called caste system in the army strikes us as a lot of poppycock. There will be as many stories as there are witnesses, and all will be more or less true. There have been as many degrees of discrimination between officers and enlisted men as there are companies, battalions, regiments, divisions and armies. Commanders of each group have used their own discretion, and many times it has been a bad one. The facts will be admitted here, denied there, and the investigation will end up by reporting what we already know—that a caste system exists.

One of our major weaknesses seems to be a tendency to investigate something when direct action in the form of a uniform and mandatory program is the only cure no matter what is found to have been true in the past. The war department knows or easily can find out what has been going on without going through the expensive and time-wasting process of a formal investigation.

If the U. S. military is to become in reality a citizens' army, the war department must make it so by specific directives as to the treatment and privileges due the various ranks in the service, and a formal finding that a GI was tossed out of a hotel in Rome in 1945 or was otherwise treated rudely by his superiors outside the line of duty won't constitute a cure. There is no denying that in some theatres the caste system reached proportions far out of the even with the generally-accepted theory that there should be some definite line of demarcation between officers and enlisted men. Let's look the fact square in the face, accept it as a factor needing correction, and act accordingly.

Editorial Comment

MASTER STROKE OR FOX PAW?

Diplomats have their own way of conveying hints.

For instance, the United States is sending the body of the late Turkia's ambassador to Washington back to Turkey aboard the battleship Missouri.

The ambassador has been dead two years. His body was "going as well as could be expected" in a vault in Washington. There was no reason why it had to be sent home right now. When Lord Lethian, British ambassador to Washington died a few years ago his earthly remains went home aboard a cruiser. So we are obviously going far beyond the ordinary courtesies. Why?

The purpose seems to be to impress Russia with a gesture of friendliness to Turkey, which is reportedly threatened with a Russian invasion. Use of the Missouri is significant as this is our newest and most powerful battleship. It is also our best known ship since the surrender of Japan took place on its decks.

A good trick if it works. But suppose Stalin remembers that neither the Missouri nor our other battleships are amphibious. They cannot go ashore to fight the Russian army. Russia is more impervious to naval attack or naval pressure than any great nation in history.

And the use of the Missouri for this purpose at this time is bound to antagonize the red czar, who is evidently in a pretty ugly frame of mind right now. So one guess is as good as another as to whether this cruise is a master stroke or the international counterpart of an awkward individual opening his mouth and putting his foot in it.—Baker Democrat-Herald

Tidal Wave?

In a "letter to the editor" in one of the current magazines, inquiry is made as to whether scientists planning the atomic bomb test in the Pacific realize that in that region the earth's crust is thin, and if fractured by the test, letting millions of gallons of water rush into the molten interior a tidal wave might result which would engulf coastal cities. Doubtless scientists have reflected on this point as on many others in giving their views on the contemplated test in the mid-Pacific. And evidently the authorities in control—the navy and army air force—are willing to take the risk of tidal waves, destruction of fishlife, making the water radioactive. Truth to tell, however, they are by no means sure just what the results will be. That is one reason for the series of tests—to find out.

The explosion of the atomic bomb releases a tremendous force, as has been abundantly demonstrated. Detonated in the air the effect of the blast is dissipated within the area of a few miles. The result will be very different if an atomic bomb is exploded under water, because water is relatively incompressible, so the pressure from the release of the atomic energy will be transmitted for long distances. Even so, the Pacific ocean is so vast (71,000,000 square miles of surface) and so deep (13,440 feet mean depth) that the pressures generated by the atomic bomb explosion probably will be absorbed without either cracking the crust of the earth or creating a tidal wave on continental shores.

We need to realize that while atomic energy in the plutonium bomb is far greater than any other form of energy which man has handled, it cannot compare in strength to the force of earthquakes and cyclones. It still is a local phenomenon, great in comparison with previous employment of force, and great in its potentialities; but distance remains a safe defense, unless the performance off Bikini atoll gives us a new surprise.

This treat of strike at the Salem alumina plant seems untimely. It is not at all unlikely that the RFC which foots the bills for its operations would relish some excuse for discontinuing operations there. Already layoffs have occurred; and those who strike may find themselves like a baseball player on occasion—struck out.

Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, March 20—The food situation is so deeply buried beneath a mulch of propaganda a dozen farmers could not pitch it off in a year.

We were feeding wheat to hogs only last year and the year before, and now we have to eat black wheat in bread. Yet we still have a prospective surplus of 150,000,000 bushels for the end of the crop year, and crop prospects are good. The late winter provided good moisture through the breadbasket section of the farm belt. Winter wheat looks fine in most areas. There is no deficiency of supply.

Many stories have been told about the black wheat order, both as to its causes and effects. The one which I believe has not been told as far as I know, is that the change does not make much difference, as far as increasing the available supply of wheat. My most trustworthy experts tell me the order contemplated leaving a mite more of the dark husk in the ground wheat. It did not contemplate any deterioration in the quality of flour, and has had less influence upon white bread than upon darker bread. The saving will be limited in amount to the quantity of husk left in the flour—which cannot be much. As far as health is concerned, the vitamin content of the new flour would be reduced by only the same mite of replacement.

Advantage May Be Taken of Order
This is the official position in the matter, and any deterioration in the quality of the flour or bread is what might be called unofficial. Some parties may be taking advantage of the government order to foist poor products off on the public at the same old prices.

The so-called black bread step therefore appears primarily a strategem to bring home to the people the necessity for food conservation—a strategem which opens an excuse for abuses, a deterioration in quality, and secret price increases, and is a typical old Rooseveltian method of "bringing things home to the people."

The move for curtailment of portions in restaurants opens similar vistas. The OPA issued this order and specified the same old high prices should be charged for the smaller portions. If the government wanted to save food for Europe the natural thing would have been to cut the prices as well as the portions. That would have saved both the food and the consumer. But by this old Rooseveltian way of doing the thing, the public is wheedled into another hidden price increase of inestimable proportions because the restaurants can reduce quality, dispense nearly anything they have left in the icebox and excuse themselves by saying to the customer—"we are feeding the starving in Europe."

Overhauling Does Not Seem Complete
Enlistment of Mr. Hoover to head the campaign on the newly discovered famine in Europe therefore, may not represent the complete overhauling of the food program I thought was first indicated. Exactly what Mr. Hoover is to be, remains to be seen. He did not immediately get the Lehman job in the futile UNRRA, but only the prestige of leadership, and went off to Europe to find the scope of the famine, which must be apparent to our armed forces on the ground there since last fall. Indeed, Mr. Hoover reeled off all kinds of figures about it before he left.

What do these strange events mean? For once, I am stopped by the confusions of Washington. I am asking you the answers.



Glutton for Punishment

The Literary Guidepost

By Adelaide Kerr

WOMAN AS FORCE IN HISTORY, by Mary K. Beard (Macmillan, \$2.50).

Mary Beard, a pioneer all her life, has pioneered again on a subject that will afford study and discussion for a long time. In "Woman as Force in History" she attacks the idea—prevalent in historical writing and current thinking—that women were a subject sex throughout the ages.

She presents impressive evidence to show that, through the centuries, women have been a positive force.

In searching for the origin of the "haunting idea" that women were a subject sex, Mrs. Beard says she encountered two illuminating facts: (1) the idea was first given its most complete and categorical form by American women who were in rebellion against what they regarded as restraints on their liberty; (2) the authority whom they most commonly cited in support of systematic presentations of the idea was Sir William Blackstone, author of Commentaries on the Laws of England which reads in part: "By marriage the husband and wife are one person in law; this is, the very being or legal existence of the woman is suspended during the marriage, or at least is incorporated and consolidated into that of her husband." Mrs. Beard tests the legitimacy of Blackstone's stand and finds it wanting, tests the subject sex theory—and shoots it full of holes.

Looking down the centuries, she presents women as a force in civilization primitive mankind; foreshadowing, instigating and fighting wars, playing a powerful political role; taking an active part in the commercial and intellectual life of the Middle Ages and the powerful movements of mysticism and heresy and wielding

history-making influence through ideas launched in French salons. In a brief survey of modern history she cites the part women played in the growth of Communism, Fascism and Nazism.

This is no book to race through between dinner and bedtime. It requires study and concentration to follow Mrs. Beard through the mazes of history and the documentation incorporated in her text. But she has written a book which every man and woman should read—a book which sheds light on the future of women and the world by shedding light on their past.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Arithmetic ain't important, Pop!—The government figures your tax, the O.P.A. figures your prices, and fact-finding committees figure if you're making any money!"



(Continued from page 1)

had opposed some of his wanted legislation, notably the supreme court packing bill. The attempt backfired, and the purge idea was dropped as a bad political blunder. Wallace will get nowhere with his proposal now: Those born and baptized in the democratic faith will not take orders from a late convert.

Nevertheless the issue raised is one of the perplexing problems of the practical workings of our system of government. What is party policy? Who defines it? What discipline may be or should be used to enforce it? Republicans have had difficulties in their day as democrats have now in developing a working party. Then republican regulars wanted to drive out the "insurgents" and if my memory is correct they did deny Bob LaFollette, sr., of some of his claims to seniority after his independent candidacy in 1924. Under the primary system, party discipline has pretty well broken down. The winning candidate for governor or president often is looked to as the exponent of party policy, the platform itself being regarded as a vague catch-all for vote-getting purposes. But party independency has prevailed for most of this century save in exceptional situations, as in the "first hundred days" of the new deal.

There is real need for stronger party discipline, based on formulation of party policy on a democratic basis. That need exists even if Mr. Wallace is a poor salesman to offer a remedy. Our parties suffer from too much independency and fragmentation. But such is the extent of our liberty of thought and our applause for independency in voting that there is little prospect for early imposition of congress. Therein lies one weakness in the practical workings of our system of government.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

"CLEAN BREEZE"

To the Editor:

In church on Sunday morning we were going through the usual routine of songs, announcements, meeting the budget, etc. As part of the usual routine, I was about half asleep.

Then a man in the congregation rose and in simple but stirring terms asked that we do something for the starving people in other lands. "Those people are hungry," he concluded, "and if we, as a body, can't see fit to give them some help we'd better close our books and forget it all."

Immediately the air was cleared. Others rose and spoke with like feeling, and action was taken.

For me, at least, this episode gave tone and meaning to the whole meeting. I woke up. I felt more inspired by this one expression of generosity than by all the rest of the service.

Thinking it over afterward, I am wondering if this example may not show somewhat of the conditions which prevail in many modern churches; conditions which are described variously and at length by those seeking a remedy, but which may be summed up in two words: lethargy and impotence. But if the clean breeze of spontaneity could sweep through our musty churches might not our lungs be filled, our spirits refreshed, and new vigor imparted to our whole endeavor?

Building Permit Issued for \$18,000 Store, Apartment

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Townsend took out a city building permit Wednesday, authorizing construction of an \$18,000 store and apartment building at 950 Broadway.

Jack Melzer has received a permit for a \$15,000 house at 1930 Saginaw st. Other permits issued: Lenn C. Davis, \$5000 house at 555 N. 22nd st.; H. E. Pade and C. B. Keen, \$5500 house at 2280 Broadway; Roy Ellert, \$500 garage at 705 Thompson st.; J. O. Scott, chickenhouse at 1565 S. High st.; Dr. Tom Dunham, \$600 alterations to house at 1885 S. Church st.; M. W. Welch, \$500 alterations to house at 545 E. Myers st.; P. J. Hibler, repairs at 1590 S. Commercial st.; D. E. Woody, apartment alterations at 345 Bellevue st.

Salem Band To Entertain State Teachers

The Salem high school band under the direction of Vernon L. Wiscarson, local band and orchestra director, will present a program of music as part of the second general session of the 43rd annual convention of the Oregon State Teachers' association which will be held in Portland March 28 and 29.

The Salem high school band is one of two school musical groups which will appear on the general session programs. The other group is the Jefferson high school chorus of Portland.

The Salem band is scheduled for its appearance Thursday afternoon, March 28.

Wiscarson is also on the program committee for the Oregon State Teachers' association department of music, which will hold meetings Thursday and Friday mornings, March 28 and 29, in connection with the convention.

Second Salem Toastmaster Club Organized

Salem's second club of Toastmasters completed preliminary organization Wednesday night, named themselves the Capital Toastmasters and established Thursday as a regular meeting night, the Hollywood Lions Den as place of meeting.

Stearns Cushing is temporary president of the club; Don Goode, temporary vice president; Otis Rawlins, secretary-treasurer, and Ed Randle, sergeant-at-arms.

Twenty-one men signified they would sign the charter. The group will meet next week with the Salem Toastmasters on Tuesday night at the Marion hotel and hold its own first regular meeting at the Lions Den on April 4.

Group Hears Recruit Plan

The plan for recruiting the postwar army to the strength of 1,600,000 currently organized was presented to a company of representative citizens from valley communities last night at the Marion hotel by army officers. Col. W. F. Griffin outlined the need for a volunteer army and the opportunities it offered to youth for learning trade skills and for a permanent career.

Lt. Col. William M. Cohoon in charge of recruiting for Oregon and southern Washington presided and answered questions from the audience. Others in attendance were Maj. S. D. Stanfield of the Salem recruiting office and Lt. C. G. Folen of the Portland office.

Floor and wall tiles are shaped under a pressure of about 2000 pounds to the square inch before being fired.

Firestone is to be accompanied by Robert Davis, Los Angeles, Pacific coast sales manager, and E. J. Stevens, Portland, district manager. The group also will visit stores in Eugene and Corvallis.

E. Whealdon Rt. 2, Box 113 Turner, Ore.

Ex-Willamette Prof Speaks To Rotarians

Economic capitalism and economic collectivism had better learn to live together or there will be no world in which to live. This was the conclusion voiced by Dr. W. C. Jones, former professor of economics at Willamette university and now president of Whittier college at Whittier, Calif., in a talk at Rotary club Wednesday noon.

Four spectres, provincialism, egotism, selfishness and dogmatism, stalk the world today, Jones said in a talk on what he termed "world politics." Provincialism he defined as a slavery of words using the example of those who would keep their state or territory from certain peoples.

Egotism he defined as those who as Hitler did believe they are "better than some other class"; selfishness was defined as the fear "there will not be enough to go around"; and dogmatism is becoming an "economic dogmatism following the religious dogmatism of the past."

The United Nations organization will succeed only if there is growing spirit of tolerance and forbearance in the world, Jones concluded.

Educational History
Jones came to Willamette in September 1929 and went to the University of Oregon in the fall of 1941 and to the California college in 1944.

In the course of the talk he referred to the many changes in conditions during the 17 years since he came to Willamette. He was introduced by Tinkham Gilbert.

State Highway Board to Open \$3 Million Bids

The Oregon state highway commission, meeting April 4 and 5 in Portland, will open bids on numerous road and bridge projects involving expenditure of more than \$3,000,000.

These projects, which State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock said Wednesday are part of the state's postwar highway program, include:

Grading and paving of .68 mile of the Judkins Point-Springfield Junction section of the Pacific highway in Lane county.

Furnishing 10,000 cubic yards of crushed rock in stock piles on the Waldport rock production project in Lincoln county.

Reconstruct existing bridge over Mill creek on the Dallas-Coast secondary highway in Polk county.

Wright Funeral Slated Today

Last rites will be held this morning for Clarence Eugene Wright, Oregon native and Bell Telephone employe for many years, who died at his home, 1186 Broadway, Sunday.

He was retired from the telephone company in 1934 after 32 years in its service. He had lived in Salem the past year and earlier had lived in McMinnville, Taft and Yamhill. He was born at Yamhill May 6, 1877.

He leaves his widow, Anna; four sons and two stepsons. The funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. in Clough-Barrick chapel, followed by interment in McMinnville's Masonic cemetery.

Firestone President To Visit Salem Store

Leonard K. Firestone, president of the Firestone Tire and Rubber company of Akron, O., will visit the local Firestone outlet on Liberty street next Tuesday morning, George Kingan, Salem Firestone manager, is informed.

Firestone is to be accompanied by Robert Davis, Los Angeles, Pacific coast sales manager, and E. J. Stevens, Portland, district manager. The group also will visit stores in Eugene and Corvallis.

The koala bear is the most popular Australian animal.

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