

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Taking over Britain's Policing

Russia protests the anchoring of American war vessels in Mediterranean waters. It protests the proposed reactivating of an airplane landing field in North Africa for use of United States planes. It accuses the United States of imperialistic actions in Iran—military missions, supplying of military equipment, etc. And of course Russia has long denounced America's extension of aid to Greece and Turkey. In rejoinder the state department says the Russian complaints about Iran are false or distorted, that calling of war vessels at ports of friendly nations is entirely proper, with consent of the power visited, and that we are within our rights in reopening the airfield near Tripoli since no disposition has been made of the former Italian colonies.

One can understand how Russia would be sensitive about our military moves in the eastern hemisphere. How would Americans react if Russia were getting bases in South America and was subsidizing some government in Central America and had a fleet cruising in the Caribbean sea?

Our prime national interest is protection of a line to the oilfields of the middle east, which again is irritating to the Russians who covet the same oil. The fact is that the United States has taken over the role formerly played by the British navy, that of policing the lanes of the world. Britain can no longer carry this load, but since it is an axiom of politics that a vacuum invites some power to fill it the United States steps into the British shoes lest some other power (Russia) move in first.

This is costly business, and no mistake. But at the moment there seems no other alternative. Making the world our best increases our exposure but it may serve also to avert crises that lead to war. We let the British navy do the chore for decades; now the job falls to us, whether we like it or not.

Green Boards, Hmmm...

Sometimes one wonders just where progress ends and screwy ideas begin. Take this Oklahoma outcry against blackboards in schools, for instance. In fact, take it out and drown it, for all of us.

Right straight from the oil fields comes a sudden determination of a school business manager to paint blackboards green or white. He says blackboards are hard on the eyes. It isn't clear whether he's an oculist, an artist or a point salesman, in addition to his job of keeping books, but he's for progress and good eyesight.

Most blackboards now made are a midnight blue, which passes for black very well. So we haven't quarreled with that, though we haven't noticed that the modern generation can do any better, fractions or parse a sentence any more accurately on the new paint job. But greenboards!

Already most of the sentimental phases are a thing of the past insofar as Will D. Cobb's venerated "School Days" of 1907 is concerned. These aren't exactly "Golden Rule days." The "hickory stick" is all too passé. "Queens in calico" now must have the New Look, and the "barefoot boy" denotes more poverty than health, in many cases, the life!

Well, there's the phrase, "And you wrote on my slate, 'I love you, Joe.'" And the slate wasn't green or white or orchid or flesh or russet. It was, in fact, slate-color. And when it wasn't washed too thoroughly the chalk letters were not too easy to read. So now what? Slates probably will be beige, and no one will ever sing about them.

That leaves one last line in the poem which Gus Edwards put to music so swingingly—"When we were a couple of kids." Well, maybe children will survive apple-green blackboards and stay kids but sometimes we wonder. A little more of the world—that was slips away with the blackboards. But if such progress actually does help eyesight, we'll bury the nostalgia in the same grave with the little red schoolhouse.

St. Lawrence Seaway

The senate has been engaged in a prolonged debate over the revived St. Lawrence waterway project. This program which has been before the United States and Canada for many years and up in congress at intervals for several years past involves the deepening of the channel of the St. Lawrence river to a 27-foot depth and the development of hydro-electric energy from power plants along that stream.

The principal support for the plan comes from the inland midwest and the Great Lakes states. They see in this seaway an improved outlet to the ocean and to world markets. Other advocates are those in northern New York and New England who want the electric power which now is going to waste.

The objectors are many and powerful. The railroads fight it because they fear loss of tonnage. Port cities like New York and New Orleans are strongly opposed because they fear a diversion of tonnage from their docks. And of course established power interests resist public power development.

Objectors brought up a new angle in the late debate, and that was the huge cost, estimated at near three-quarters of a billion dollars. The benefits, they say, would never compensate for this great outlay.

The project has had big names among its endorsers: Presidents Hoover and Roosevelt and Governor Dewey have supported the program. But the measures to get it going have never been approved by congress. The senate has refused to ratify the 1932 treaty with Canada to authorize the project; and now there seems little likelihood that congress will approve the legislation authorizing it as a federal project.

The navigation gains are limited by the seasonal closing of the river by ice; but it would seem that eventually the river will be harnessed to generators because of the increasing demand for power and light. The issue will come up again in the future.

Editorial Comment

From Our Contemporaries

FURLED LEAVES

If there were any doubt about the temperatures we have been experiencing, the thermometer readings could have been roughly checked by watching the rhododendrons.

Rhododendrons, both the native and imported varieties, are sensitive to temperature. Their leathery evergreen leaves normally have a slight under-curl at the edges, almost imperceptible in spring and summer. Bring on the first heavy frosts of autumn, however, and these leaves begin to droop and curl their edges as though they were starting to wither. Drop the temperature to 20 degrees and the leaves curl tightly. Put it on down to zero and they hang pendent and curled to a thumb's diameter. For the past few weeks they have been curled tight and point down like a plum line.

Mountain laurel, which belongs to the same family botanically, the Heaths, also shrinks from the cold, but it does not curl in the same way, nor does it droop. It is a hardier plant, and its leaves have, through the centuries, taken more cold. Moreover, being a lower bush, the laurel is more often protected by the snow.

Still humbler members of the same family, such as creeping snowberry and checkerberry, take their winter weather snuggled to the ground and protected rather thoroughly by the drifts, which are a natural blanket of insulation. Rake the snow from them in the dead of winter and their evergreen leaves look as bright and unchilled as they will the first week in April.

It's the big members of the family, the rhododendrons, that have to stand up and take what winter brings. But they don't do it without cringing, in their own way.—New York Times.



Charles

Bean Growers Association Elects Liggett of Lebanon As President at Salem Meet

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman

E. R. Liggett of Lebanon was elected president of the Oregon State Bean Growers association at its annual meeting held at the Salem Chamber of Commerce rooms Friday. James Rear of Eugene was made vice president and Harold Elbert of Salem, secretary-treasurer. J. H. Tompkins of Dayton, presided.

An incentive payment system, similar to the one used by J. J. Kaudell of Aumsville, to replace the older bonus payment plan as a method of retaining pickers to the end of the season was favored by many of the growers in attendance. The group voted to have the president appoint a committee to study the proposed plan, and if the growers find it workable, present it to the state labor commission before that body sets the minimum picking price for 1948. The plan calls for a bonus payment on the better grades of beans picked.

W. E. Kinsey, labor commissioner, who attended the meeting, indicated that he did not believe the price for picking would be less than in 1947, when a 2½ cent minimum, including bonus, was in effect.

Demand Over Supply

O. E. Snider, former president of the Northwest Cannery, speaker on the afternoon program, said that the demand for Blue Lake beans had so far exceeded supply. Even when the poorer, so-called "standard grade" had a surplus, he continued, the Blue Lakes were still in demand. Mr. Snider said that the market was "very good and sustained" but that processors should get more for the goods because of the raise in price on cans and cases which the cannery cannot continue to absorb. Mr. Snider did not anticipate any shortage of farm labor and very little if any increase in the wage scale.

Charles Martin, Salem, outgoing secretary, reported that the national acreage of beans was 89,000 with Oregon's 4,400 acres. Oregon topped all other bean growing states in tonnage production per acre at an average of

5.2, with California at 5 tons to the acre. Indiana's production per acre was the national low at one-half ton.

Morning Discussion

Building up soil, controlling disease, and the relation of the former to the latter were featured in the morning discussion session. The majority of the growers reported white mold had been a serious menace to bean growers in recent years. H. L. Percy, Salem, advocated paying more attention to cause than cure of disease and felt that if the soil were built up properly there would be less trouble. He advocated cover cropping and fertilization.

Keith Colburg of Dayton expressed the opinion that not sufficient attention was being paid to the minor elements in soil which "have in recent years been proved of such importance to health."

To Seek Legislation

Following Mr. Colburg's talk, the growers voted to ask the next legislature to make it compulsory for manufacturers of fertilization to place complete contents of their product on tags on each bag, giving the percentages present of not only the major elements, as is now done, but the minor as well.

Others speaking on the subject included Carl Robertson, Truman Chase and E. L. Cox, all of Eugene.

Growers were present from Eugene, Portland, Woodburn, McMinnville, Dayton, Salem, Polk county and the Aumsville-Stacyton area.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"I'm just crazy about this record—Harold, Otis, Joe and Eddie have all declared it's OUR song!"

MATTER OF FACT

Columnists Willing to Take Bet ERP Compromise in Near Future

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop
WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Astute political bettors could do worse than get a little money down on a compromise on the European Recovery Program between the administration and the senate republicans, followed by quick congressional action. Secretary Marshall is strongly disinclined to appeal to the country, without which ERP's congressional prospects cannot be improved. President Truman has materially worsened the congressional situation, by affronting the whole peculiar school of white supremacy southerners. And a compromise would not only save the ERP's bacon, it would also save the political bacon of the republicans.

As to the nature of this possible compromise, it would be a deal that which was outlined in this space recently. Authorized ERP expenditures would be somewhat cut, reducing from 15 to 12 months the period for which money is to be appropriated. At the same time, Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg and his foreign relations committee would endorse a full-scale ERP.

Secretary Marshall would chime in with his approval. Then, after the election, if the initial appropriation of \$4.5 billion to \$5 billion had not proved adequate, the ERP administrator would go to the new congress for a deficiency appropriation.

The virtue or defects of this possible compromise are much less compelling, in the present situation, than its political expediency. To be crude about it, political expediency will control the decision of all parties to the bargain.

Everyman Must Agree
The crucial point is that everyone must agree in order to get agreement on a compromise at all. In other words, the state department is unlikely to approve any departure from the original \$8.8 billion, 15-month authorization from ERP unless Sen. Vandenberg can deliver not merely his own and his committee, but the congress as a whole, including the bulk of the isolationists. The congressional isolationists are unlikely to reduce their demand, unless a round-robin agreement puts everyone in the same boat, with some show of concession to them. And Sen. Vandenberg is unlikely to take the first back at ERP unless Secretary Marshall goes along, and the isolationists go along too.

This kind of circular negotiation, among men divided by mutual distrust, is always the most difficult. These facts make an immediate ERP compromise an attractive long-shot bet (and it is only a long shot).

Negotiations have actually been started by Sen. Vandenberg; all parties to the negotiations have nearly equal bargaining power. It is to everyone's interest that the negotiations should succeed.

The bargaining power of the state department is the least apparent because it is long-range. None the less, it is entirely clear to Sen. Vandenberg, who knows the facts of the world situation. A major republican onslaught against ERP, seriously impairing the bill's usefulness, will almost certainly cause serious political repercussions in Western Europe. The effects on the coming campaign may be imagined, if President Truman is able to point to a Europe in the process of being gobbled up by the Kremlin, and to blame the republicans for this development. Sen. Vandenberg therefore wants Secretary Marshall's concurrence in any major ERP change, from a lower as well as a higher motive.

Hope Marshall Agrees

The higher motive, of course, is the fact that if Secretary Marshall concurs in the change, the Europeans will be reassured that ERP has not been materially impaired. The lower motive is to safeguard the republican party from future misfortune in the election, deriving from disasters abroad which would drive home to the electorate the folly of the republican isolationists.

As for Sen. Vandenberg, his bargaining power vis-a-vis the state department is obvious. If, at any moment, he chooses to tell the department, "This is the absolute best I can do," the department must accept what he says. But Vandenberg also possesses bar-

gaining power with men like Robert A. Taft, who do not as yet understand the political dynamite with which they are playing abroad. But they clearly understand the danger at home of a party split on a big issue in an election year. They have signified this understanding by indicating already that any compromise that will save their faces will be entirely to their tastes. Finally, the bargaining power of the isolationists derives from the fact that in the present chaotic, lackadaisical congress, they can do ERP exceedingly serious damage if they have a mind to.

It can be stated that these down-to-earth considerations have already been reviewed by Sen. Vandenberg and Sec. Marshall's representatives. The likelihood of compromise now turns on one simple question. Can Sen. Vandenberg be reasonably sure of prompt, affirmative congressional action on any plan he and Marshall's men work out? If he can offer this assurance, the betting will change to odds-on.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

BUS SERVICE ON D STREET

To the Editor:

I'd like to add my 'voice' to your Safety Valve—so many have complained about the suburban bus service, given by O.M.S. We really appreciate the bus service O.M.S. tried to give us suburbanites here on D st. between Park ave. and Lancaster dr. We got up a petition asking for bus service between Lancaster dr. and Park ave. Center st. had 15 min. bus service, as the Chemeketa bus went east on Center to Four Corners, returning on Center st., then there was another bus running on Center st. also. I suppose it was the Suburban bus. It was our idea that the Chemeketa bus might swing over on Lancaster dr. to D and down to Park ave. on their return trip, giving us bus service too. We had 95 signers and took our petition to O.M.S. They said they'd see what they could do for us. We were so happy when O.M.S. put on their shuttle bus for us. I noticed there weren't very many riders though and feared we would lose our bus service. I am a house wife and I suppose most suburbanites, like myself, have chores to do and must return by noon. The bus only runs until 10:20 a.m. and as the stores opened at 9:30 I could not get back by noon on the bus. I could ride into town though, and my husband, who works clear across town, could drive to town and take me home and then go back to his work, a 7 mile drive.

I believe more people would ride the bus as the weather improved. At any rate we lost our bus service and we are truly sorry. We do thank O.M.S. that they tried to give us bus service.

About the accident on D st. and 12th R.R. crossing. One clear moonlight evening as we were coming home from prayer meeting, as usual, Mr. R. and I looked to see if a train was coming. There was not a sound of a train or whistle, and it's hard to see far north. We were driving slowly. All

at once there were the headlights! We saw them just in time to avoid an accident such as happened there last week.

Mrs. G. S. Rasmussen
3450 D St.

K. L. Foster to Head Optimists

Kenneth L. Foster was elected president of Salem's new Optimist club which chose permanent officers for its first year at a luncheon in the Marion hotel Friday noon. Foster is assistant district manager for Prudential Life Insurance Co.'s Salem area.

Other officers elected were Sidney Jary, first vice president; Dr. Harold Foose, second vice president; Ben Valdez, secretary; and Willard Friesen, treasurer. Merle Ward, appointed membership committee chairman, announced that inquiries about nature of the new service organization which specializes in boys work may be made by telephoning 28041 or 7746.

The new club will meet again next Friday noon and complete plans for a charter night dinner at 7:30 p.m. in the Marion hotel, when featured speaker will be Lucien Brouet of Florissant, president of Optimist International.



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PNEUMONIA HITS ACTOR

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—(AP)—Wayne Morris became ill on a movie set today and was taken to his North Hollywood home where his physician said he had pneumonia and would not be able to report for work for two weeks at least.

WHEAT SENT TO FAR EAST

SEATTLE, Feb. 6.—(AP)—Seven-teen shiploads of flour and wheat totaling 171,222 tons were sent to Japan, Korea and Okinawa last month for civilian consumption, the Seattle port of embarkation announced today.