

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Progress Against Specific Diseases

The number of cases of venereal disease reported in Oregon has declined steadily since the war years. The comparison is given in the latest bulletin of the state board of health:

Number of Cases for Year	1948	1947	Av. 1943-47
Gonorrhea	1,365	1,967	3,043
Syphilis	1,142	1,435	1,694

The decline is easily understandable. During the war normal living in homes and communities was disturbed. Thousands of men were assembled in army camps and naval stations, under the regimentation of military life. Recreation naturally took a more radical character, for restraints of home and home institutions were lacking.

Diligent effort was made to drive out commercialized vice, but the incidence of venereal disease mounted. It is gratifying now to see the reverse tendency set in, as conditions revert to normal.

Somehow we are losing ground in the battle against tuberculosis however. There were 841 cases reported for 1948, only six fewer than for 1947; but the number was 107 greater than in the years 1943-47. Our population is larger, but with better health habits the cases of tubercular infection should have kept on going down. It may be that the practice of general screening is showing up more cases which are thus caught in initial stages. The figures prove then that the screening is a good thing, also that we still have a war on to wipe out the bacteria which produce tuberculosis.

Work Wanted!

Families are hungry in Salem today, because the breadwinner is out of a job. You can read about it in a news story on another page.

This is the slack season in employment. Farm work is at a minimum; the cold weather holds up construction work. Canneries have little work at this time of year. Jobs are scarce in industry. The blow falls hard on those who have no reserves, who may have no credit with the unemployment commission, who may be newcomers with no friends or relatives nearby to help them out.

The load is falling heavily on the public welfare commission; but its funds are limited.

So the appeal is made for jobs for men and women out of work. It's the first time in years an appeal has been made; but the need for those in poor circumstances is acute.

The plea is for local people to find jobs for those who are needy—cleaning out the basement, or the attic; cutting wood; yard or garden work as soon as weather permits.

Call the employment office and report any work you may have.

Burden of National Debt

A speaker on radio Town Hall the other night, to impress his auditors with the size of the national debt, said that Indiana's share (presumably on a per capita basis) is \$7 billion; but if

you sold off all the property in Indiana, farms, factories, houses the sum realized would be \$3 billion short of meeting the debt.

That mathematics is screwy. If the debt is apportioned on a per capita basis the credit should be good. That is, Indiana citizens and institutions should be credited with holding \$7 billion of the government's bonds and certificates of debt. That would cancel out their share of the debt, and leave their \$4 billion dollars worth of property clear.

However it is a fallacy to say that the national debt is of no consequence because "we owe it to ourselves." The credits and debits may balance for the country as a whole, but not for individuals. The pattern of bond ownership is different from the pattern of taxation.

This remains true, that a high debt makes necessary high taxes. If the debt keeps on mounting, then with a slump in revenues it is easy to slide onto printing press money—the last stage of inflation.

The radio speaker was wrong in his comparison, but correct in posting a warning against increasing the debt or incurring treasury deficits.

That big snowstorm in the high plains east of the Rockies certainly will help the grain yield next summer. The acreage planted to winter wheat is at record levels. The crop forecast used an estimate of only 15.7 bushels of wheat per acre. The heavy snows insuring moisture in the growing season will force a revision upward. The 1948 yield was 17 bushels and 1947 18.4 bushels. If the latter figure is duplicated in 1949 we'll have wheat running out of our ears. With the 90 per cent guarantee which holds through 1949 the growers will be in the money.

A good many fires are reported in the papers, fortunately few of them in the Salem vicinity (business of rapping on wood). Cold weather should spur householders to exercise every precaution to prevent fires. Guard against overheated stoves or flues; keep litter away from fires; put screens in front of fireplaces when persons are not about. At night check to see that furnaces and fireplaces are safe. Loss of life, property damage from fires can usually be averted by vigilance.

Those who think the highway department sticks to its mistakes will be interested to learn that it changed its mind on a relocation of Highway 101 out of Astoria, and is adopting a route recommended by the city of Warrenton. So maybe Salem will get its bridge at Division street.

California's hangover from the last election is a hundred million dollar pension increase that has legislators and leaders in that rich state groggy. One Assemblyman introduced a bill to raise the sales tax from 2 1/2 to 3 per cent, which seems to be the easiest way to raise the money.

Smudgepots in the orange belt are giving a black eye to southern California's tourist charms.

Mystery of Photosynthesis Clearing

By Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6—Something is now going on quietly and virtually without public notice in California which may be the long run overshadow in importance the current excitement in Washington. Officials of the atomic energy commission warn that the "ifs" should be emphasized. But they agree that the experiments being carried on in California under the auspices of the commission could lead to political and economic consequences as overwhelming as those which have resulted from the invention of the atomic bomb itself.

The objective which these experiments are designed to achieve sounds remarkably like the scientific counterpart of L'il Abner's famous Shmoo. For the scientists are trying to find ways to control or to duplicate the mysterious process of photosynthesis, on which the whole cycle of life on earth depends. Success would mean nothing less than the capability of artificially producing unlimited quantities of food to feed an increasingly starved—threatened world. And already the scientists know enough to assert that success, although not certain, is now seriously possible.

Photosynthesis is, of course, the process by which plants are enabled to store the energy of the sun in the form of energy-giving foods. Although the general theory has been familiar to school-children for years, no one has ever really understood the process in detail.

Now, however, a radioactive byproduct of atomic energy, called Carbon 14, has provided a tool through which the dark mysteries of the process may be traced. Using this radioactive

tool, two scientists, Dr. Melvin Calvin and Dr. Andrew Benson, working for the atomic energy commission in the University of California, have already made startling progress.

Indeed, according to Dr. Calvin, the point has already been reached where the whole mysterious photosynthetic process can be controlled in simple water organisms like the algae. In other words it is now known to be a perfectly practical matter to "farm the sea" by forcing such humble and highly inedible organisms as seaweed to produce great quantities of fat or proteins or carbohydrates or what you will.

In this country, such a project is still no more than a gleam in the eyes of Doctors Calvin and Benson and a few others. But the British government, in its determined attack on its food shortage problem, has actually established a pilot laboratory in Trinidad to test the possibilities of farming the sea.

While this sea-faring project is remarkable enough, Dr. Calvin is convinced as a consequence of his researches with Carbon 14 that even more is theoretically possible. In the words of that usually sober journal, "The London Economist," "While all the details of the chemical reaction are known, it should be possible to set up industrial factories not unlike many modern chemical plants, to produce by artificial photosynthesis the carbohydrates, sugars, proteins and fuels the world so badly needs."

In other words, the green plant would simply be by-passed entirely. Artificial photosynthesis in a factory would reproduce the process whereby the sugar cane, for example, transforms carbon dioxide gas and water into sugar. Using sunlight and a few basic chemicals, food factories would turn out food in whatever quantity might be desired



VISITS POPE—Maj. Gen. William Donovan, wartime chief of U. S. Office of Strategic Services, passes Swiss guards after an audience with Pope Pius XII in summer palace near Rome.

U.S. Prods Dutch to Declare Prompt Self-Rule for Indoneses

By John M. Hightower

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6—(AP)—The United States prodded The Netherlands government today to prove by prompt, specific actions its declared intention to grant self rule to the people of Indonesia.

Undersecretary of State Lovett made the U. S. views known in a letter addressed to CIO President Philip Murray. Murray had written Secretary Marshall last month praising American steps to end what the labor official called Dutch "aggression" in the East Indies.

Lovett declared that peace in the strife-torn Asiatic islands will be impossible "unless the trust and cooperation of the Indonesian people, including the republican elements which have been in the van of the nationalist government, are enlisted."

"Concrete Demonstration" Therefore, he said, the United States hopes that The Netherlands government will "make concrete demonstration of its intention to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Indonesians for self rule and to organize an Indonesian government in which all parties may seek and obtain representation in accordance with their popular followings, through the exercise of free, democratic processes."

While Lovett defined the American position in general terms in his letter to Murray, officials at the state department said that the same views had been forcefully expressed to the Netherlands government directly.

Action on 3 Lines

What the United States wants, these informants said, is action along three main lines to bring about conditions in which it will be possible to resume negotiations for Indonesian independence.

These are:

1. An immediate and completely effective cease-fire order to all Dutch troops.
2. Unconditional release of all leaders of the Indonesian republic.
3. Withdrawal of Netherlands troops from territory occupied since the Dutch started their "police action" against the Indonesians December 18.

Lovett told Murray that one of the main interests of the United States in seeking to aid the Indonesian republic lies in the non-communist character of that native movement. He said the republican government had "resolutely taken action against and eliminated communist revolt against its authority engineered by Moscow-trained and disciplined communist agents."

Silverton Chest Directors Meeting Called for Jan. 11

SILVERTON, Jan. 6 — Alf O. Nelson, president of the Silverton Community chest, has called a joint meeting of the budget committee and the board of directors for January 11 at 8 p. m. at the chamber of commerce rooms in the Washington Irving building. Funds from the 1948 campaign will be allocated and 10 candidates will be nominated to the board of directors to fill the places of those whose terms expire. A meeting of the entire community chest membership is called for January 18.

Board members whose terms expire are Thora Arestad, George Manolis, Oscar Overlund, Bessie Porter, Zona Rutherford, Alf O. Nelson, Lois Riches, Helen Wiesner, Lewis Melby and E. O. Royer. Holdover members are R. G. Allen, Earl J. Adams, Clifford Blumquist, Tom Anderson, Marie Blundell, Mrs. P. L. Brown, A. J. Clark, Jeannette Coomler, C. H. Dickerson R. A. Fish, Mrs. August Herr, Alfred Jensen, Olum Larson, Mrs. Carl Lorenzen, Irene Moseng, Mrs. John Myers, Hannah Olson, Olaf Paulson, Jr., Helen Sherwood and Dr. A. L. V. Smith.

Keizer Families Take California Vacations

KEIZER—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Greenwood, Roberta, Bonnie and Richard returned this week from a vacation and sight seeing trip.

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Toastmasters Speech Contest Finalists Listed

Six finalists to participate in the January 27 speech contest of the Capital Toastmasters club were announced at the club meeting Thursday night.

The winners of weekly contests during the past six weeks include Elmer Amundson, E. A. Bradford, Stearns Cushing, Robert Forkner, William Taw and Wayne Smith.

Top man in the final contest will compete in the area speech contest to be held late in February for members of Toastmaster clubs in Salem, Corvallis and Albany. Finalist in this group will be eligible to vie in the district contest slated for Bend in April and in the final international speech tournament next summer.

Queen angel fish have bright powdery-blue bodies and golden-yellow fins.

Literary Guidepost

WICKED WATER, by MacKinlay Kantor (Random House; \$2.75).

Back in the days when cattlemen were having to fight for their open ranges, Bus Crow, apparently on his way to nowhere in particular except a spot on lending-library shelves, rides into Pearl City and tethers his horse in front of the Glad Hand saloon.

He is "sullen and dark of face," meaning presumably that he has a dark face; and his eyes "carried deep inside them a constant and futile asking for mercy," which is merely to say he was not all bad.

A little boy, Willie Stiver, playing with a sling-shot, happens to nick the newcomer in the knee, and gets his face slapped for it. As if that doesn't prove he is tough, he tells the protesting menfolks in the barroom that he has killed 67 men. His fellow-drinkers are suddenly reminded that if they hire a hard-boiled hombre like this one, they may be able to clear out the small settlers who are interfering with their business.

So they approach him in as devious a way as can be arranged either to cover up their tracks or to carry on a story, through a Mattie MacLaird, Glad Hand glad-hander, and money left in a billiard table pocket, and a conference at pistol-point, and a voice resounding from a tin bucket in order to disguise it.

So the novel goes on, with homesteaders shot all over the place, and Mattie reforming and unreforming, and Bus elaborately pretending to be what he isn't yet all the while Bus wandering around glowering at the world, and finally a U. S. marshal on a Busman's holiday coming to Pearl City to try to solve murders about which there is no mystery at all. The title has to do with one of the things which infuriates Bus: The sound of trickling water. . . there's an old melodrama in which the killer was infuriated with just about as much reason by the sight of a poker.

This is certainly about a killer, however, and it will slay you.



FIRST ISRAEL CENSUS—A bearded, orthodox Jew, wounded in the Negev fighting, signs a paper in Tel Aviv giving his age and other details for the first Israel census.

as far south as San Jose, Calif.

Also in California for the holidays were Mr. and Mrs. Carl Morrison and daughter, Rita. They visited his sister in Bakersfield and friends in Los Angeles.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Moore returned last week from three week's visit in California with his parents and relatives of Mrs. Moore.

Firearms Law Enforcement Due in County

Marion County District Attorney Edward O. Stadter, Jr., indicated Thursday that the law regulating licensing of firearms dealers will be enforced more strictly throughout the county.

The Marion county court instructed Stadter to investigate application of the statute after receiving the request from Sheriff Denver Young.

Stadter pointed out that firearms regulations have been enforced in cities, but not generally in rural areas of the county. The law requires that permits be issued by the chief of police in cities and the sheriff in county areas whenever pistols or sidearms are purchased from dealers or private parties.

Records must be kept of all transactions involving firearms which might be used as concealed weapons. All sidearms must be registered either with a city police department or the sheriff's office.

Diary of A Sidewalk Superintendent



January 7
Mighty disappointed today. Went down to help Portland Wire Company hang the new glass doors on The Stevens and Son Jewelry Emporium. But they weren't ready. As luck would have it, though, I found the fellows from Walton-Brown who are doing the electrical work and gave them a hand. Showed them how to place the spotlight and how to set the wiring for the new cases. Strange how little people appreciate your efforts sometimes. Do you realize, I haven't heard a word from Sid Stevens. Maybe he intends to surprise me with the presidency or something?