

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sweeps Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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No \$US for China

Harold E. Stassen did a pinch-hitting job at M.I.T. last week, not for President Truman, but in place of the president, as the former governor of Minnesota was careful to explain. Harold is always ready to give with some new ideas, and is pretty liberal with Uncle Sam's resources (once he proposed we give a tithe of our produce to help Europe). This time he came up with what he dubbed the MacArthur plan for Asia. He recommended that we spend a billion a year to bolster the nationalist government of China and hold the fort against communism in Asia.

"So far as we are concerned we'd say the pinch-hitter fanned out. We contributed billions of dollars to nationalist China in the period since the war, in money or goods, only to find that huge quantities of military supplies leaked through the lines to the commies. What assurance do we have that the same thing wouldn't happen with Stassen's millions.

The senate on Monday adopted an amendment banning any U. S. aid to red China. To make that stick congress should also put a ban on any aid to China.

The sad fact is that China is hopelessly disorganized, and for the time being is blanked out of world trade. As for stopping the spread of communism there or in other parts of Asia U.S. dollars are not the right kind of anti-toxin. We can't make "rice Christians" out of all Asiatics. The best we can do is to stand by and hope that the infection will run out of itself.

A Moment in History

History was made Monday when representatives of 12 nations met in Washington and signed the Atlantic pact. The uniqueness of the event lies in the fact that this is one of the very few alliances ever joined by the United States. During the war of the revolution Benjamin Franklin concluded an alliance with France which proved of very great value to this infant nation struggling for independence. Since then, under the admonition of Washington's farewell address, we have abstained from "entangling alliances." We did however join the United Nations with its engagement to use force. Recently however we joined with other states of the western hemisphere in a treaty of mutual defense. This set a precedent, if one was needed, for the new Atlantic treaty.

In a sense however historic fact has already submerged something of the singularity of this agreement. In two great and fateful wars the United States forsook its former position of proud isolation and plunged deep into the struggle. This new pact merely puts down in black and white what we and the world anticipate should similar eventualities emerge.

Soviet Russia takes offense at this alliance as well it might. It says the alliance is aimed at the USSR. It is; but not in the way of aggression. It is pointed to shore up defenses across Europe against armed penetration by Russia. The history of postwar events fully justifies the western powers in banding together and assuming postures of self-defense. Russia need have no fear if it stays within its own borders. If however it pushes westward to bring more of Europe under its heel then the counter-attack from the west will come with all its fury.

That such nations as Norway and Denmark and the Low Countries should sign this document in the face of scoldings from Moscow is proof of the reality of the menace they fear. Were there no occasion for alarm they would have no need to look for a protector. And they have this confidence, that if the United States does come to their assistance it will not remain as an unwelcome conqueror.

While the signing of this treaty is an important event, the degree of its importance must await the future. We can recall many treaties

in the period between the wars which were loudly hailed when signed, but proved to be only scraps of paper when Hitler chose to ignore them. Then there was the famed Atlantic Charter, with its guarantee of the Four Freedoms. Later one of its chief architects admitted it wasn't even a physical document; and the guarantee endorsed so readily by so many nations (Stalin gave his approval of the Charter) were sadly ignored in the evolution of the peace.

In spite of the waste-basket of history overflowing already with broken treaties and fractured alliances we think this one will prove more enduring. The prospect is that the passing of time will cement the alliance, that the signatory powers, so similar in tradition, political ideas and economic organization will draw together more closely under the pressures of self-interest quite as much as of fear.

The real hope of the Atlantic pact lies not in its alliance for defense but in its step toward closer unification.

Boys who grew up in the middle west and read Chicago papers knew "The Hub" — and thousands of them got clothes from that store. Its proprietor, Henry C. Lytton, has just died at the age of 102, the last of the great State street merchants, like Marshall Field. He is one merchant who proved that "advertising pays." He spent a third of his original capital in advertising his new store; and kept up his advertising over the years. And he was an able and dependable merchandiser as well as a vigorous advertiser. This writer remembers wistfully a blue reefer coat that proved too small and had to be sent back to The Hub, and the money refunded.

Spring weather affects people differently. Some get the gardening urge, want to get out with spade and hoe and rake. Others pull out last year's fishing tackle to see what shape it's in and think of the opening of the trout season. But these baseball fans are the ones with the real bug. They are eating up the pre-season dope, reading about the showings of teams in spring practice and getting restless for the season to open when they can pour out to the ball park. Baseball is still the great American pastime.

The Kay family of Brayton, Ia., will have something to argue about for a long time. It seems that both Papa and Mama Kay wanted a post on the city council. So did seven other people. Papa Kay finished 6th, Mama Kay 7th. It did preserve the highly-questionable masculine superiority by a narrow margin but the question'll never be answered as to whether "I'd have been elected if you'd stayed out of it."

Credit Robert Mitchum, screen actor who did a short stretch for violating laws respecting narcotics, with taking his penalty in good grace. He pushed mops and did chores at the prison farm, and came out with no criticism of the authorities, praise for the farm and an evident determination to go straight. The best move in the last direction was to rejoin his wife and children.

The repealer to the federal tax on oleo carries a provision that if oleo is served in public eating places it must be triangular in shape. This gets us into the silly season for legislation. Surely congress should concern itself with more important things than the shape of an oleo serving at a diner's plate. Have the butter interests no better defense for their product than to drop to such absurdities?

New Objection Voiced to Pension Lien

By Ralph Watson

A letter has come from Portland, which accords kindly compliment to this column for what has been written, especially in regard to pending legislation affecting the aged. And it included another interesting suggestion in another column where, in due time, it will be found.

Both letters are timely; both undoubtedly are sincere; both doubly so in view of the circumstance that this subject is to be one of the main controversies before the legislature, first in the house then in the senate, this week.

The contributor finds objection to what he terms the "lien" clause of the pending legislation. He contends that, under it, the state seeks to take away his home, or whatever of estate he may be possessed.

That is not so. It is a mistaken concept which has been fed into the minds of the aged by the political demagogue, the charlatan and—all too often—by the young who seek to shunt their obligations to the shoulders of the state and its taxpayers generally.



There was a time when all the cry was against "the pauper's oath". It too, was a misnomer, conceived by those who, from the first, have fed upon the misconception of the aged for political aid and advantage; fostered by those who, as assumed directors of public sentiment, should have been ashamed and abashed to traffic with the hopes and the fears of the helpless, the aged and the poor.

So, after all, just what is this so-called "lien," what does it mean, what does it do and whom would it hurt?

It means that the aged citizen who needs and seeks financial aid from the state in his declining years, when the time comes that his need is ended, then—and not until then—the state shall have return from such estate, or property, as he may have possessed, of the sums advanced for his assistance.

Is there anything wrong, unfair or degrading in such a provision? Oregon has 1,826,000 people resident in it. Of these, 114,093 are 65 years of age or over. Of these, 22,518 were recipients of old age assistance in January of this year.

It means the added cost of public welfare for the coming biennium is approximately \$55 million. Is it unfair, or unjust, for the state to suggest that those who need help, but who have assets, repay out of those assets

what the state had advanced, when the recipient has no further need of them? Would that not help in equity to lighten the load upon the state and upon all those who must provide the funds and carry their own loads too?

And who would the "lien" clause hurt?

Not the aged beneficiary. He would be sleeping in the knowledge that he, so far as he had been able, had paid his way through life, independent and unafraid.

It might discomfort the relative who, contrary to good morals and the law, should absorb the savings of the aged and shunt his duty and what conscience he may have, into the custody of the state.

Before this week has passed it is scheduled that all these issues will have been determined, by the house and possibly by the senate. It is to be hoped, too, that the assembly will unite in support of house bill 506, which provides a way to peer by indirection at least into the welfare rolls, and weed out the chis-fare rolls, and weed out the chis-obligations, or otherwise, are padding the roster and the costs. It would bring added care and comfort to the aged—and should cleanse the consciences of many who now should be ashamed before their neighbors, and would be if their records were made known.

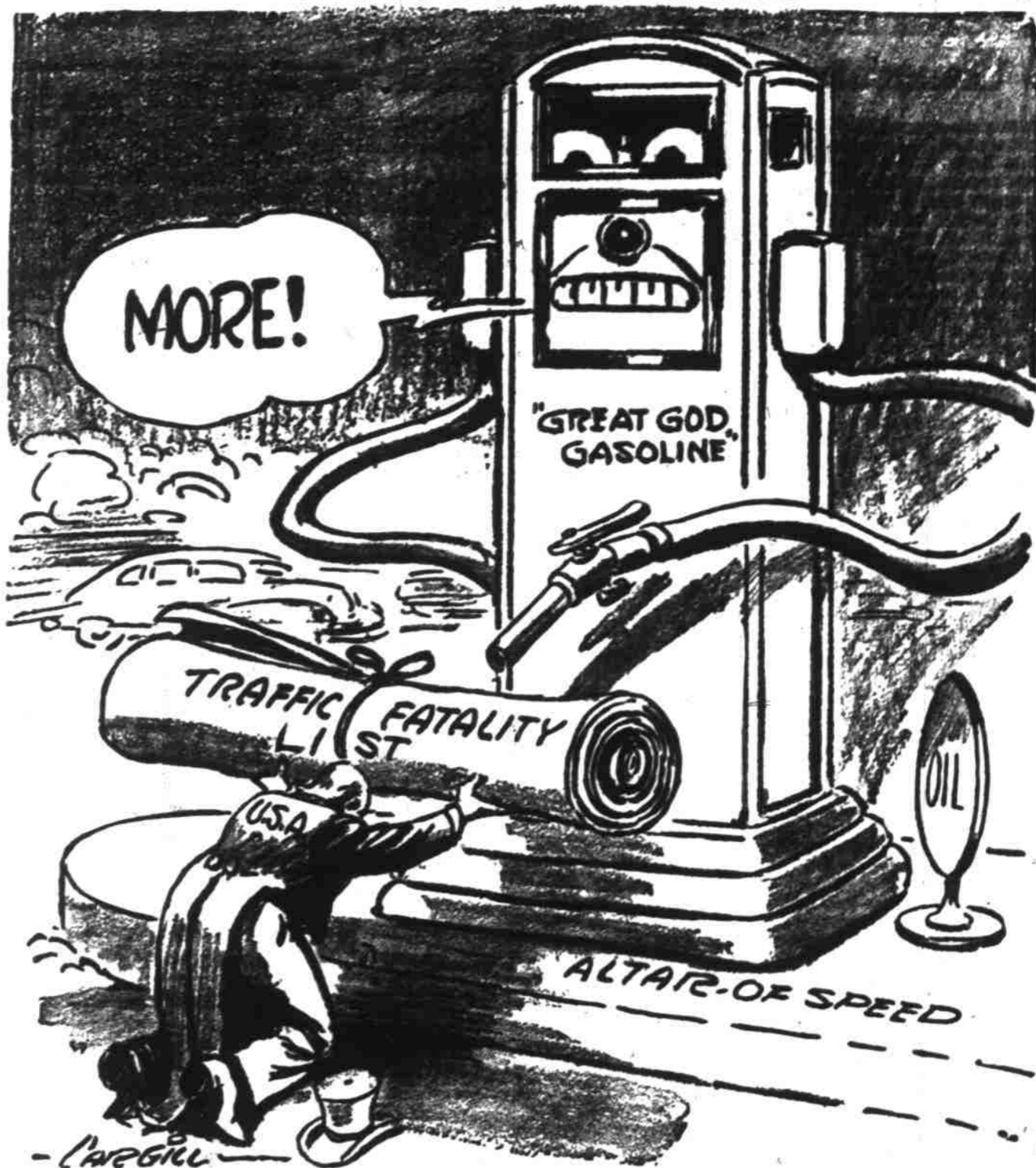
At a third possibility is in coal. High costs of the large deposits of the mountain states—Utah, Montana, Wyoming—have restricted its use. As oil grows more expensive coal may become more competitive. The Wall Street Journal reports that coal producers in that region are preparing to pour much more coal into power-hungry California. In the mountain states, adding Colorado and New Mexico to the three named above, lies nearly half of the nation's coal deposits—a trillion and a half tons. Much of this is relatively low grade; but technological developments can make practical its conversion into synthetic oil or gas that can be moved by pipeline.

The mountain state coal producers predict they will be selling three million tons a year to California by 1951 for steam electric generating plants, and 12 million tons by 1970. While our hydro-electric resources are still only partially harnessed the time will come when we shall have to resort to other sources of energy, using steam plants fired by coal, gas or oil, unless energy from atomic fission proves practical.

I write at this length on this

subject because our people need to realize the importance of an adequate fuel supply for northwest industry. We do not have it now. Unless we can obtain fuel in abundance at reasonable cost our industrial development will be stymied. The coming conference will help develop a long view of our resources and our needs.

THE ANNUAL SACRIFICE



IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued from page 1)

oils the supply temporarily at least is improving. The shift from oil-burning steam locomotives to diesel powered units on railroads releases large quantities of heavy oil. Great refineries will continue to operate on this coast even if petroleum has to be brought in by tanker, so continued production of residual oils is assured. Whether the supply would be adequate for great industrial expansion calls for forecasting by the experts.

The brightest prospect of augmented supply is with natural gas from the Alberta fields. The supply there seems to be huge. Its delivery by pipeline to the principal markets of the northwest awaits only the decision of the Alberta provincial government and the construction of pipelines. Its large-scale use however would require a much lower schedule of rates than prevails with manufactured gas at present.

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Autos Looted Over Week End

Car looters were active over the week end with three Salem residents reporting losses to the city police Monday.

Ray Birdsong, 2061 N. 5th st., reported the loss of a vacuum cleaner valued at \$85 from his car while parked at his residence, and D. L. Cummins, 1080 Mill st., complained that a brief case was taken from his car parked on South Commercial street Monday afternoon.

Loss of an alarm clock, man's jacket, tire and wheel from his car was reported by Fred Stevenson. He said the items were stolen while the car was parked at the rear of the Blaine hotel Sunday.

Rites Here



Military services at graveside will be held jointly Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in Belcrest Memorial park for Frank J. Nist, Jr., (top) and Leon L. Peavy, (bottom) former Salem residents who were killed in action in the Pacific theatre in 1945. The marine corps reserve will be in charge of the ceremony.

Silverton Boys On Camp Trip

SILVERTON—Twenty Boys Scouts of troops 52 and 77 went on an overnight camping trip at the James Bonner ranch Thursday and Friday.

Tests in erecting tents, fire building, cooking and trail finding were made in preparation for the May 10 district court of honor at Mt. Angel.

Norman Naegil, scoutmaster, R. G. Smith, camping chairman, the Rev. B. F. Browning and Jeff Hoyt furnished transportation to the camp. The boys hiked back.

Troup 52 meets each Monday at 7 p.m., and Troup 77 on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

VISITS NAMESAKE
LINCOLN—Returned from Seaside where she visited her great-granddaughter and namesake, Sarah Ann Ashford, for the first time is Mrs. Sarah Feller of Lincoln. Sarah Ann is the first child of the Harry Ashford of Seaside and was born February 28.

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Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers
LAST OPERAS AND PLAYS, by Gertrude Stein, edited and with an introduction by Carl Van Vechten (Rinehart; \$5)
"This which I think is a play is a play," says a character in "Bryon A Play," one of the 19 works in this collection.
Miss Stein, who wrote the line, naturally agreed with it. Some readers will not, just as some disagreed when she used to say, in effect, that that which she thought was a novel was a novel.
It's a matter of definition. If there's any resemblance to current Broadway shows is purely accidental, and would indicate that Miss Stein was slipping. She was not.
Sometimes it's impossible to tell just what her plays mean; they can't be summarized, you have to take it all or nothing. They do not always contain progression mounting to a climax, as a clear-cut conflict requiring a resolution. "An His-

toric Drama" has more character than are found in the listed cast, and "Short Sentences" is spoken by a chorus and 500 characters. In the first half alone of "A Play of Pounds" there are 25 Act 1's, 80 Scene 1's, 40 Scene 11's. "They Must Be Wedded, To Their Wife," moves astonishingly by fits and starts; "A Manoir" begins in confusion, advances to more confusion, winds up in the utmost frantic and feverish confusion.
It's a curiously exhilarating confusion; even if you can't decipher what you're reading, you can't ignore what you're feeling. In this author at her best there is always drama, if you'll accept her terms, and always a heightened intensity which is in essence progression. Unconventional but not unworidly, she probably did not expect to find producers, but she did not fail to find publishers for all her 60-odd plays.
Van Vechten throws a bright light on her work, and contributes a great deal of information not publicly available before. All but five of these 19, which are from manuscripts in the Yale Library collection, were written between 1917 and 1938.

Feed Grains Acreage to Drop; Oregon to Boost Oats Planting

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman

Acreage of feed grains in 1949 in the entire United States is expected to be smaller than a year ago, reports from the commercial feedstuffs and hay review, issued Monday, show. This reduction may be as much as 4½ million acres, according to farmers' reported intentions during March.

Corn will be planted on the smallest acreage in over 50 years, the reports show. Oats will have about the same acreage as a year ago, but barley is now indicated to be down 11 per cent.

Oregon farmers intend to adjust their spring plantings of feed grains. The largest shift from 1948 plantings is oats, which indications show are up 34 per cent this spring. This will make the oat plantings for 1949 slightly above the 10-year average.

Oregon's early acreage for 1949 is indicated to be down around a fifth compared to 1948. However, it will still be about 20 per cent above the 10-year average. Corn plantings, which will replace some of the winter-killed crops, are up 8 per cent, according to March estimates. However, these will still be around 34 per cent below the 10-year average for Oregon.

Oregon farmers intend to plant only 60 per cent of the 1948 acreage of flaxseed. Indications are that in most of the western states farmers have increased their hay acreage. In Oregon, the acreage is up 4 per cent.

World hog numbers are on the increase, this week's Meat Animals and Wool Review shows. The jump is fully 6 per cent above a year earlier. The largest increases have taken place in war-devastated continent of Europe, with emphasis on the Soviet union. South America has also made a sizable gain in numbers.

Dairy product prices to the farmers have continued to decline

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this past month. The over-all U.S. price in dairy products was down 15 per cent from a year ago, during the last half of March.

DRIVE TO BREMERTON
SILVERTON—Mrs. H. J. Hahn and Kenneth and Valetta and Mrs. D. C. Davies of North Howell area drove to Bremerton, Wash. to visit relatives for a few days.

Revival Continues

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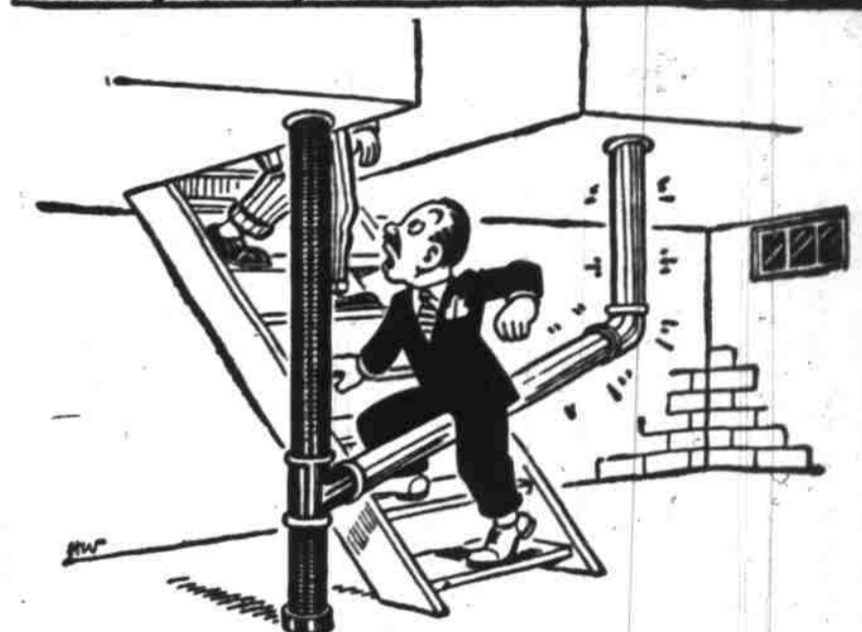


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