

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Stays Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Metal Prices Take Drop

Long held at relatively low levels by the combination of OPA and mining subsidy, prices of metals spurted upward when controls were removed. Lead, copper, zinc took a rocket ride, and steel followed along more sluggishly. Aluminum alone held to a very modest increase and was still well below prewar prices. The rise in the price of metals resulted in price increases in tools, machinery, in hardware, automobiles and building supplies. As lately as this year pleas were made for renewal of mining subsidies to assure us of adequate supplies, particularly of non-ferrous metals.

At long last however the inventories of metals grew topheavy. Even demand for lead, which was in shortest supply, dropped sharply when battery manufacturers went on slow bell. The score to date is lead down 30 per cent, zinc 25 per cent, copper 14 per cent. Steel scrap has dropped sharply and points to a price drop for steel though so far the principal change has been the erasing of premiums on special items.

So the old law of supply and demand is proving sovereign again. Government is buying up quite a supply of metals for stockpiling or prices might drop further. This price readjustment will be helpful particularly in the manufacturing field for it will reduce costs for the infinite variety of products in which metals are used.

OPA was abolished perhaps too soon, but the economic theory of a production spurt if the market was set free proved correct. Not even Mr. Truman is talking about reviving price controls now.

"Invasion" at Pasco

Fortunately no lives were lost in the swamping of an LCM off the Washington coast last week. It was one of a convoy of more than a score of these transports and three escort vessels making the sea voyage from Puget Sound to the mouth of the Columbia and thence upriver to effect an "invasion" at Pasco (near Hanford atomic energy works). Two other LCMs developed engine trouble and had to be towed to the Columbia.

The army has to give its men training, but putting them to sea in such craft for such a dis-

tance seems overly hazardous. As for threading their way up the Columbia for over 200 miles, what do they think would happen to enemy craft in that interval?

The Astorian-Budget, with a nautical inclination, thinks the army should depend on the navy for its ocean transportation.

Secretary of National Defense Louis Johnson settled one argument; he ordered work to stop on the 65,000 ton aircraft carrier "United States", which the navy has wanted badly to build. Its cost was estimated at \$200,000,000, and with planes and equipment, \$800,000,000. The army said: "What a target for a sub with a schnorkel!" It may be better to say that Johnson settled the case—the argument over floating air bases will continue.

William C. Bullitt, former ambassador to Russia and France, is a real pessimist. He says it is tragically clear that war is coming to the United States, and the struggle will be a war of survival. He blames conditions on Roosevelt and Harry Hopkins who made concessions to Russia to get that country to play ball with the west, and on the "amateur" diplomats who have been handling our affairs. If we look at our history we can expect more wars; but Bullitt has no standing as a prophet—he was another amateur diplomat, one of FDR's fair-haired boys who has turned sour on the man who lifted him to fame.

A number of cities in Oregon have followed Portland in adopting daylight saving time. Since the state law restricting clock-tampering to action by the governor doesn't go into effect until July they can get away with the change this year. Time should be uniform over the time zone. Congress is the only body that can lay down a universal rule, and it ought to act. As a public issue daylight saving stirs up more heat than light.

To "shanghai" a sailor was to drug him or get him drunk and then put him aboard an outgoing ship to make up its crew. With the communist armies nearby to Shanghai it looks as though the old city itself would get shanghaied soon.

Army Rule of Japan Said Unhealthy

By Stewart Alsop

TOKYO, April 25—This sleazy oriental shantytown gives the traveler the odd sensation of being dragged back through five years in time and thousands of miles of space. For Tokyo is still remarkably like a big war-time city far behind the battle lines. . . . After the fighting had moved up beyond Naples, or Rome, or Paris well after the Battle of the Bulge, the United States army, in its rear echelon capacity, is everywhere.

Here are those dimly remembered, omnipresent, officious army signs come back to life— "Off Limits," "For General Officers Only," "For Military Personnel Only." There are the familiar mimeographed forms, which everyone fills out in triplicate, and no one ever looks at again. Here are the well-pressed GI's, and the pink-faced military police in their white helmets, trying to look Prussian but never quite succeeding.

Here, too, are the generals, busy and authoritative, and the colonels, just a shade less busy and authoritative, and the bustling majors, bulging comfortably fore and aft. Here are the salutes and the jeeps and the staff cars and all the outward trappings of a big city in the embrace of the military. And here is the familiar backdrop, the scarred city itself, with the grey, shifting, shabby mass of its people, scurrying endlessly about their mysterious business.

The visible evidence of the army's hold on the city is confirmed by the invisible facts. These are American civilians here, thousands of them, from bobby soxers to experts on the migration of fish. Some of these civilians have influenced the course of the occupation—but only at second remove. . . . For no civilian (except occasional visiting firemen) has direct access to the supreme source of all power in Japan, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. General MacArthur is tightly surrounded by his old subordinates and intimates of the Bataan days. The rare newcomers to this charmed circle wear a uniform and usually a West Point ring. The charmed circle makes certain that civilians are kept in their place.

Even the state department men are huddled together in a power-less "diplomatic section" under the direct orders of the military.

They send cables to Washington only through army "channels," and at the army's pleasure. On more than one occasion the army has not been pleased, and cables to the state department have briskly stopped at the source. . . . More than any other city in the world since the war ended, this is the army's city. This, indeed, is the army's country. Here the army reigns supreme, unchallenged, with all the army's peculiar faults and virtues.

Thus, the men with army rank have become a special caste within the huge American community. But the American community has itself become, with all the best will in the world, a special caste—a new Japanese ruling class, as remote, isolated, all powerful and immensely rich as the "above-the-clouds dwellers" of the Kanis Kura Shogunate. . . . By American standards, this new ruling class lives only the familiar life of prosperous American suburbia—golf, cocktail parties, Saturday night hops (in the ballroom of Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Imperial hotel), Coca-Cola and steak dinners. Yet the gulf between this comfortable existence and the sullen Japanese struggle to live is as striking as the contrast between the sleek new cars of the rulers and the ancient, charcoal-burning jalopies which are the privileged possession of the richest of the ruled.

There are more subtle distinctions. Military regulations, which

appear to be modeled on those of a southern army camp, have created an almost unbridgeable chasm between the "indigenous personnel" and the American ruling class. The meeting places—restaurants, hotels, bars—of each are forbidden to the other. If an American, civilian or otherwise, is found visiting a Japanese friend after eleven o'clock at night, he may be hauled off by the watchful military police to face charges.

Japanese a cabinet of ministers come to the offices of subordinate American officials for "advice" which has virtually the force of law. Twentieth-century American Japan has a little in common with 19th-century British India. . . . All this is partly understandable. A military occupation is by definition run by the military. Conquerors cannot be expected to live in misery to spare the feelings of the conquered. Only a fool would propose the total withdrawal of American military power or civil authority from Japan. Only a fool would deny that the occupation of Japan has some remarkable achievements to its credit. Yet the way in which Japan is now being governed by the United States is profoundly politically unhealthy. It will become more so with every passing month. Perhaps no better way can be found. But it is worth looking for one.

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Literary Guidepost

by W. G. Rogers
THE WOLF THAT FED US;
By Robert Lowry (Doubleday; \$2.75)

Though I don't remember getting any impression of this sort from the anthologies, this collection of eight short stories is a reminder that it is in this field that our creative writers have been doing some of their finest work. Already this season there have been Bryan MacMahon, Sean O'Faolain, Graham Greene, Truman Capote, Shirley Jackson, and now Lowry. . . . All of Lowry's stories, including the novelette which gives the volume its title, are directly concerned with the war or its effects, and most of them have to do with love. . . . The husband rejoins his wife for a brief furlough, the boy is diverted from his trip home by a woman who picks him up, the GI in Rome finds that girls have to love to eat, the returned soldier is disappointed in the girl who loves from having overreacted, the little deserted Mexican mother wants more than the love that comes just night by night. . . . Though one story is about a soldier who makes a small for-

ture in the Italian black market, another about a girl alone in Greenwich Village, and a third about a poet in uniform, the love theme unifies the book. You're reading about the same thing, the same insatiable want and the often inadequate satisfaction of it whether in a border town, Rome, San Francisco or El Paso. Love makes the world go round and, sometimes, makes it stop. Lowry understands, too, that it's a mixture of body and mind, that the most sordid as well as the most refined passion has its mental reflection; "Casanova" Joe Hammond, in "The Wolf That Fed Us", runs this gamut, from Maria to Nina, Gianna, Carla and Madalena. . . . Every story is based on what we call, significantly though inaccurately, a "natural" idea, but perhaps the most convincing example of Lowry's magic way with words is "The Toy Balloon", in which the ecstasy of young love bursts forth exuberantly in a spite of tangled images and incidents. . . . The eight have appeared in magazines or anthologies, but this collection is decidedly worth having.



IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

had arthritis as the calcium deposits in the joints prove: "Imagine a brontosaurus with an 80-foot backbone racked with arthritic pain." No wonder the species died!

Don't blame dental decay on soft, sweet modern foods. Dental decay shows up in the teeth of those who lived a hundred thousand years ago when they ate meat and rough food, much of it uncooked. Hardening of the arteries isn't a late affliction of the human race. Sections of hardened aorta have been found in Kentucky in a pre-Columbian burial ground. Skull fractures are old too, and occurred in combat or by accident or perhaps as part of a ceremonial. . . . The Incas in Peru performed this operation which relieves pressure on the brain caused by fractures or concussion. Early inhabitants of France knew the method too, as is shown in skulls surviving from 10,000 years ago.

The bones of an Egyptian priest of about 1000 B. C. show he had Pott's disease, a tubercular infection; and bone tuberculosis of even more ancient origin has been discovered in skeletal remains. Men were short of vitamins a long time ago, even if they didn't know it. They had rickets because they didn't get enough vitamin D. Skeletons as widely separated as France and Illinois have been found which show the distortion characteristic of sufferers from Paget's disease, a cancerous condition.

Sometimes I have wondered if these virus diseases that now can be identified are due to some new virus or merely are just now being recognized. It is conceivable that new viruses are still being born, causing new diseases or more virulent forms of old diseases. But the bones tell the story of ailments that go a long, long way back in human history and even beyond. And for some of them, like arthritis, the doctors haven't found any sure cure. It looks as though disease would continue indefinitely to afflict mankind and in the majority of cases bring life to an end.

Public Records

DISTRICT COURT
R. R. DeCiegh, 462 1/2 State st., charged with obtaining money by false pretenses, bound over to grand jury after waiving preliminary examination; held in lieu of \$1,000 bail.
Neva Ralph Noah, 760 N. Church st., charged with assault, plea continued to May 2, posted \$500 bail.
Elvin E. Spurgeon, 2015 Trade st., driving while intoxicated, fined \$250 and costs, given a 30-day suspended jail sentence and placed on probation for one year.
MUNICIPAL COURT
Robert Gail Nally, 125 Abrams st., illegal possession of liquor, fined \$25.
Harlan Miller, 196 N. 5th st., illegal possession of liquor, fined \$25.
John Elden Mulchrone, Salem, charged with assault and battery, pleaded innocent and trial set May 6, held in lieu of \$100 bail.
Howard Howe, 415 Pine st., assault and battery, fined \$100.
CIRCUIT COURT
Jennie Debut vs James Young: Plaintiff files answer admitting and denying.
Oscar S. McGee vs Continental Casualty Co.: Suit seeks to collect \$600 allegedly due under terms of insurance policy for injury.
PROBATE COURT
Varnum Wells Tremaine estate: Order confirms sale of personal property.
Eva Erwert estate: Order va-

The Safety Valve

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY DIVIDED
To the Editor:

Oregon's recent legislative session presented a classic example of a degenerative process at work. Improper balance between authority and responsibility is at the root of some apparent evils. A flood of interim committees is just one symptom. Twenty-two proposed; 11 committees adopted. Major contributing cause in my judgment: Oregon's Initiative and Referendum. However before examination of possible improvements in the initiative and referendum as such, let the full light of wisdom fall on that matter of divided authority and responsibility.

The people now may legislate through initiative and referendum on equal terms with Senate and House. Furthermore each may upset the plans of the other. Authority is equal. Responsibility is not so easily placed on many shoulders as on a few, hence a legislative tendency to avoid many difficult situations by "waiting to see what the voters do about it" or passing along to some interim committee, the job of "making a study and reporting to next session of legislature." However interim committee reports, notoriously

are waste-basket material when the new crop of boys arrive on the scene. (Another problem in human conduct requiring reformation). . . . Our 1949 session had no easy tasks before it, but responsibility and authority were shared by the people who sent those 90 legislators to Salem. Whenever the going got tough that matter of divided responsibility opened two broad avenues for comfortable retreat: (a) an interim committee, (b) act, then refer it to the people! Both alternatives were used to the limit of reasonable tolerance. . . . There is much material for serious discussion in this story, stated simply here although full of dangerous curves. Application to individual relationships may help to picture relationship between Oregon's legislature and the people who vote them into office. . . . Authority expresses itself quickly. Responsibility, easily bestowed though frequently assumed with reluctance. When there are such glaring examples of improper division of authority and responsibility in high places, it is imperative that full accountability be established and soon. . . . William H. Crawford 972 Parrish St.

Better English

By D. C. Williams
1. What is wrong with this sentence? "It says in the paper that rain is due."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "bestial"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Presbyterian, pre-juice, precipice.
4. What does the word "indissoluble" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with "t" that means "calm"?
ANSWERS
1. Say, "The paper says that rain is due." 2. Pronounce bestial, e as in less, accent first syllable. 3. Presbyterian. 4. Not capable of being dissolved, undone, broken, or the like. "We want it to be a sacred and indissoluble union." 5. Tranquil.

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British Claim Russ Aiding Chinese Reds

LAKE SUCCESS, April 25—(AP)—Britain's intelligence service was reported today to have received copies of captured orders and papers showing the Soviet Union is aiding the Chinese communists. . . . A British source who would not permit identification said these papers showed clear coordination between the Moscow government and the Chinese communists. He gave no details. . . . The Chinese delegation to the United Nations heard these reports with interest. There was no official word of any course of action, but some U.N. sources said if the documents were backed with sufficient evidence they could be the basis for a complaint by the Chinese nationalist government against Soviet Russia in the U.N. security council. . . . Hollow "poison rings" were used in classical times not only for suicidal purposes, but as a weapon.

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