

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Selling Prunes to Sweden

Dallas reports the sale of 122 tons of dried prunes to Sweden. Years ago that would scarcely merit newspaper attention. Then western Oregon was shipping hundreds of tons of dried prunes in export—to Europe, to Egypt and Asia Minor—and to our own east coast. In late years foreign markets have largely dried up for lack of American exchange and what exports have been made were financed through U.S. funds. Prune growing has been a declining industry for many years. Prices have been unremunerative and irregularity of crop production has added to the hazard of the business. An acreage in the state of 58,000 in the mid-1920's was reduced to 30,000 acres in 1948 and the decrease has continued through pulling up of orchards. Despite this cut in acreage production last year was 100,900 tons, nearly as high as the average in 1930-34.

Oregon's largest tree fruit production is pears, which account for 42 per cent of the income from orchard crops, according to the latest statistical yearbook of the state college extension service. Jackson county and Hood River county are the big pear producers. Last year's pear production is reported at 6,150,000 bushels, the highest in the history of the state. While Hood River got its early reputation as an apple growing district both that county and other part of Oregon have cut down apple acreage steadily for the past 40 years. In 1910 the state had 73,000 acres in apple orchards, in 1948 only 13,000. Hood River has about half the commercial acreage and four-fifths of the commercial production.

Peach production has been increasing, and the production of 1949—930,000 bushels—broke previous records. Jackson county has the biggest peach acreage, with Yamhill, Marion, Wasco and Washington trailing.

Cherry orchards have shown rather steady increase through this half-century. The 1949 yield of 34,300 tons exceeded that of any previous year reported. The price however was only about half the wartime price. Wasco county is first in cherry acreage, Marion second.

Among orchard crops filberts were the favorites for new plantings until the post-war slump. Acreage of 23,300 in 1948 was five times that of 1930. Walnut acreage has not been increased in late years, but as young orchards came into full bearing production increased, the 1948 yield of 9,100 tons being the largest ever reported.

Total receipts from marketing of Oregon's tree fruit and nut crops amounted to nearly \$30,000,000 in 1948, according to the bulletin referred to—the record year being 1946 with \$50,000,000. The hopes of great wealth easily reached that were exploited in the brilliantly colored booklets of 40 years ago have not all been realized by any means. Many incurred bitter disappointments over investments in orchards. But the business of growing fruits has been stabilized over the years. Better methods have brought larger yields per acre, and new ideas in marketing have helped in selling crops at a profit.

With our coast population increasing, consumption of fruits here will increase, and as fruits grown here are of superior quality there will continue to be a large domestic market for our production. Even prunes will come into balance some day and not be the losing gamble

they have been for two decades. For selected fruits the time may even be ripe for an increase in plantings.

O'Mahoney Opposition Fatal

Senator Wayne Morse had better news sense than Washington reporters when he picked up the remarks of Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming in a recent senate debate and concluded from them that the administration's CVA bill was doomed, at least for now. When he was urging the amendment to provide a Columbia Basin account O'Mahoney said he felt its adoption would make a CVA unnecessary and went on to say:

"The situation in the Tennessee valley is completely different from that in the Missouri valley and in Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Idaho or in any of the other arid Western states," O'Mahoney said.

"My state of Wyoming was admitted into the union under an act of congress which conveyed to the state jurisdiction over its water supply. Ever since the state became a part of the union the state courts have adjudicated water rights."

"I have no desire to transfer that local state authority over water rights to a valley authority or whatever name it may be called."

The special significance of these remarks was sensed by Morse as spelling the doom of the CVA bill at least for the present. For O'Mahoney is chairman of the senate committee on the interior, as well as one of the most influential members of the senate and a democrat. Thus his opposition will prove almost decisive.

There still needs to be settled the question of pooling funds from the various dams under the northwest projects. That can be done without permitting diversion of interest on power projects to be diverted to other purposes without congressional appropriation. A separate bill should be introduced to cover this.

Pins for Weather Observers

The government in the person of the weather bureau has gotten round to recognizing some of its faithful, unpaid servants: the voluntary weather observers. Mrs. H. W. Husted of Jefferson has received a "30 year" pin for her service of that duration at the time of her retirement a year ago. The Statesman extends its compliments to Mrs. Husted and to others who have thus been recognized.

Mark Twain said that everyone talked about the weather but nobody did anything about it. Mark was wrong. There has been a large body of citizens in all walks of life who have done something about the weather. They didn't change it or try to; they simply set down from day to day how the weather performed: the temperatures, high and low; wind direction; precipitation: kind of day, clear, cloudy or partly cloudy. The weather bureau furnished the instruments, but the observer had to make the observations and record them daily and then send the monthly report in to the bureau. The bureau then compiled reports and published the scientific data respecting our weather. Thus there is now available accurate information covering weather conditions in virtually all parts of the United States, covering a long term of years.

The government is lavish with its pins and citations in time of war. This pin to volunteer weather observers is no DSC, but it is an emblem to indicate appreciation which is felt by all who know of the faithful work these individuals have performed.

Indications Show United States Not Involved In All Out Effort to Construct Hydrogen Bomb

By Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON, April 21—Is the United States now making serious, all-out effort to produce a true hydrogen bomb? If not, why not?

All discussion of the problems involved in making the hydrogen bomb—a subject which may affect the lives of all Americans only too intimately—must be carried on gropingly, in near-darkness. Yet the basic, publicly available facts on this hotly debated subject have been reported recently in this space. And these facts point rather obviously to certain interesting deductions.

In the first place, all the available evidence clearly indicates that a very great effort must be made if the true hydrogen bomb is to be achieved. The problem of "maintaining assembly"—of keeping the bomb mechanism intact long enough for the fusion process to take place—is in itself a fantastically difficult scientific and engineering problem.

Yet, conversely, all the evidence at hand also suggests that nothing like the kind of effort apparently required is in fact being made. This evidence falls into three parts. Part one is the President's brief statement—"I have directed the atomic energy commission to continue its work on all forms of atomic weapons, including the so-called hydrogen or super-bomb." This statement clearly implies that no, special, new, or extra effort is contemplated.

Part two is the budget. Very great expenditures will clearly be necessary if the extraordinary problems involved in making the hydrogen bomb are to be solved in anything like the immediate future. Yet the total atomic energy appropriation is less than two per cent of the

national budget, and no large special appropriations have been requested.

Part three is the scientists. The great scientists who made the atom bomb possible—Oppenheimer, Urey, Bethe, Zacharias, Bacher, Fermi, A. H. Compton, and others—are clear-

ly not working full time, or even part time, on the hydrogen project. They are lecturing, or working in their universities, or otherwise occupied.

Put these three pieces of evidence together, and it is difficult to escape an obvious conclusion. The United States is not now engaged in an all-out effort to perfect the new weapon. A reasonable guess would be that the effort, compared with the wartime Manhattan project, is on a comparatively leisurely, peace-time basis.

It is also possible to make a reasonable guess about how this situation came about. It is no secret that many of the scientists from the start bitterly opposed attempting to manufacture the hydrogen bomb. To their voices was added the powerful voice of former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission David Lilienthal.

The objection of the scientists was largely based initially on moral and emotional grounds. But in part perhaps to support the moral argument, technical grounds were also advanced for not trying to make the bomb. Some of these have been briefly, and no doubt in over-simplified form, described in this space. There is every reason to believe that the "problem of maintaining assembly" can only be solved if a very heavy form of hydrogen called tritium is used as the basic material. And aside from other grave disadvantages, both uranium raw materials and uranium piles are needed to make tritium.

This brings the tritium bomb into direct competition with the atom bomb. Moreover, although no one denies that a single tritium bomb would be far more devastating than a single atom bomb, at least some of the sci-

tists have argued that the payoff, in terms of total area destroyed measured against the total investment of effort and material, would be much lower for the tritium bomb than for the atom bomb.

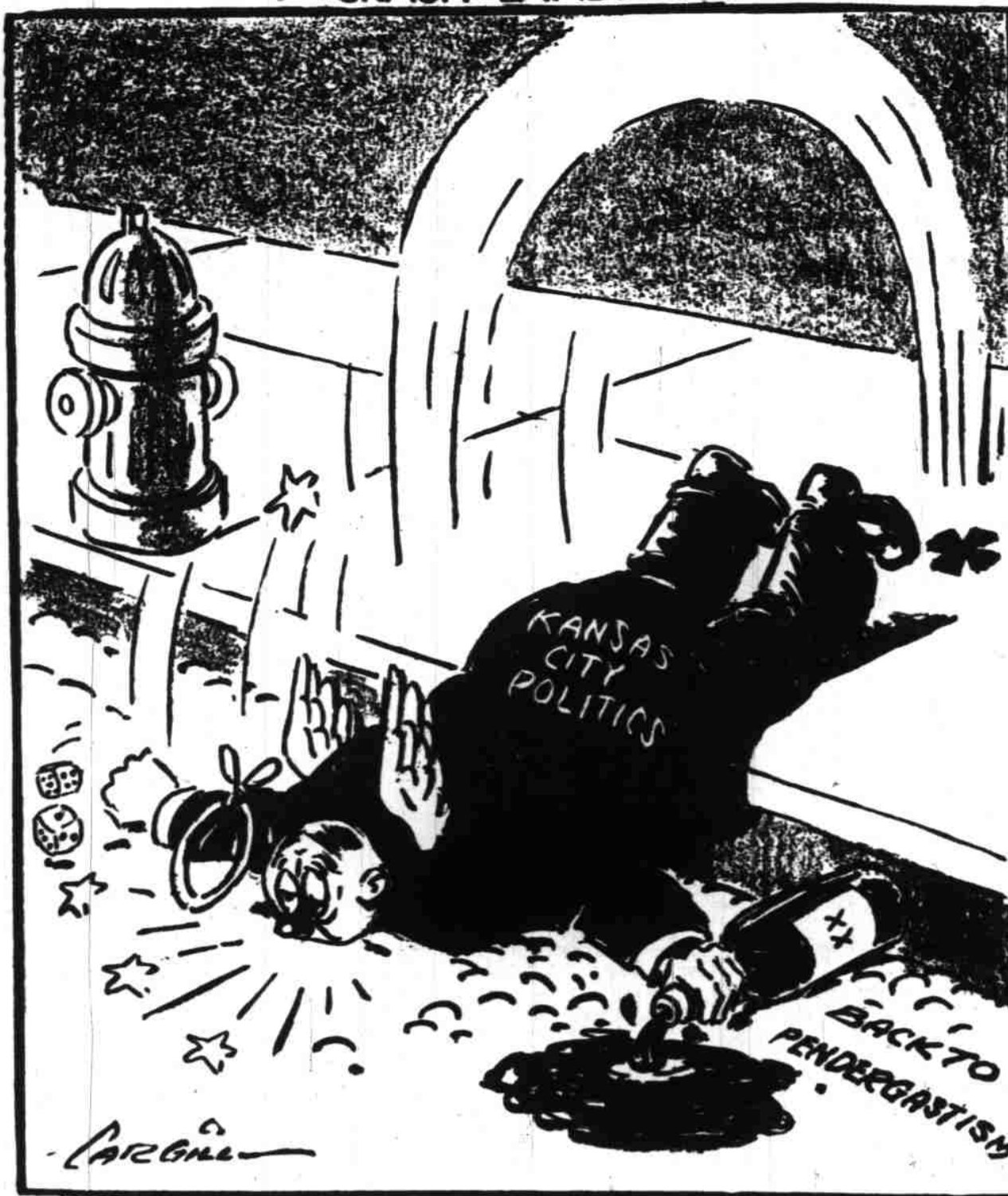
This, in capsule form, is the purely technical case against the hydrogen bomb. This reporter has, of course, no way of knowing how good this case is. But neither, it is possible to suspect, do President Truman, the non-scientific members of the atomic energy commission, or the other laymen on whom rests the responsibility for making decisions of great moment in secrecy.

It is further possible to suspect that as a consequence American policy on the hydrogen or tritium bomb has fallen neatly between two stools. On the one hand, the moral and technical objections of the scientists have been overridden. The AEC will "continue its work"—very probably the initial effort will be made to find an intermediate bomb, in which the fusion principle will be used principally to increase the efficiency of the fission bomb. On the other hand, no great and risky investment will be made to achieve the true hydrogen bomb in the shortest possible time.

From all this, two conclusions emerge. First, it must certainly be assumed that the Soviets are at work on a hydrogen project, with an absolute, war-time priority. Unless it can be demonstrated conclusively that the effort to make the hydrogen bomb is unquestionably a bad investment, we have no alternative but to attempt to match the Soviet effort. Second, we cannot conceivably hope to match the Soviets where secrecy is concerned. Only a fool would propose public discussion of authentic secrets. But unless such facts as are certainly known to the Soviets can be brought into the open and discussed, the democratic process of decision simply ceases to function.

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CRASH LANDING!



Ways in Washington Trieste Blast Said Aimed At Yugoslavia

By Jane Eads
WASHINGTON (AP)—National Home Demonstration week is April 30 to May 6. Some 3,000,000 country women will show what they are doing to improve their homes and keep their families well.



In about 56,000 communities women will hold festivals, country-wide meetings, tours, demonstrations, exhibits, and other activities. A part of the Department of Agriculture's cooperative extension service, the home demonstration program began in 1913. It features good home management, nutrition, food production and preservation, use of equipment, home furnishings, family relations, clothing, consumer buying, community activity.

Home demonstration agents, who conduct the program with homemakers, are cooperatively employed by local county governments, state agricultural colleges and the Agriculture department. "A part of the agent's job is to inspire and encourage the homemakers, as well as to give specific and technical help," Miss Mary Rokahr, in charge of the extension service's home economics specialists, explained. "Helping them are nearly 150,000 volunteer local leaders who have been given special training and pass on what they have learned to their neighbors. The week is especially set apart to pay tribute to these volunteer workers and to play up the results their work during the year."

Miss Rokahr, who has been in home management work for 20 years, and has traveled through about every state and territory to give experienced advice in the program, told me that homemakers are "broadening their horizons and developing a better understanding of national and international affairs" everywhere. "In addition," she told me, "rural women continue to

work for better nutrition—1,204,000 families improved their food supply last year and more than 1,500,000 families received help in food canning, freezing, drying and storing.

"Also some 934,000 families were assisted with clothing construction problems, and 764,000 with selection of clothing and textiles, with the result that new fabrics are no longer a mystery to homemakers." Miss Rokahr points out that in 1948, 40 per cent more families got help in home sewing than in 1942, which she says is a reflection of the home sewing boom sweeping the country.

"Improved housing is a big part of the program," she added. Several hundred thousand homes were built, remodeled or improved in 1949. Nearly 220,000 families were assisted in rearranging or improving their kitchens, many thousands more in the selection of furnishings or equipment and in improving home grounds."

Better English

By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "There is an old adage which advises against this action."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "justifiable"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Millennium, Meer-schaum, trapezium, centennial.
4. What does the word "relegate" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with mes that means "to hypnotize"?

ANSWERS
1. Omit old. 2. Principal accent is on first syllable. 3. Meer-schaum. 4. To exile; to banish; put back or away. "We have not relegated religion to obscure municipalities."—Burke. 5. Mesmerize.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

by Lichty



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IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

boards. Public opinion therefore will be on the side of the railroads rather than the firemen, and will be expressed volubly if these roads are struck bringing financial loss and inconvenience to thousands of workers, to business and manufacturing.

Perhaps the best answer to the demand of the firemen is the performance of the diesel-electric tractors themselves. They have been in use now for a considerable term of years and have demonstrated their quality in the test of actual service. And well they have performed. They have pulled streamliners at high speed and heavy trains of freight cars at such low cost for fuel, for time lost and for repairs that roads everywhere are rushing to dieselize their traction power. Diesels could hardly make such good records if they were being operated short-handed.

The brotherhood naturally hates to see any of its members lose employment, and so do all the rest of the public. But operating costs of railroads, chief of which is wages, are so high that roads have had to install more labor-saving equipment and engines to keep going. Even so they are still losing business to competing means of transportation. If they are to be stuck with added labor costs simply to provide jobs to their competitors, their financial solvency will be further threatened.

Strikes on these important lines will surely prompt vigorous action by government agencies. In 1946 when the general railroad strike was pulled President Truman asked congress for most drastic powers over labor which congress wisely denied him. But if these strikes come we may expect congress to act, if the president fails to move. The right to strike is not absolute. It must be for a just cause, which has not been sustained, and it must not be such as to demoralize the economy and threaten the security of the nation. Workers in essential industries such as railroading must realize that—and I incline strongly to the belief that the firemen will not go through with the strike for which the call has gone out. In these critical times we do not dare to have great railroad systems paralyzed by industrial strife.

The Safety Valve...

Information Wanted

I understand that all state officials have been granted a pension by the legislature, when they leave their official duties; some of them have financial and business interests, besides their official salaries. The last legislature also passed a law authorizing payment of old age pensions to those over 65, placing relative responsibility and property restrictions upon them. That old people must turn their property over to the welfare commission or be automatically disqualified. Does the same interpretation apply to the elected state officials who become eligible for pensions. If not why not? Both groups have the same physical needs, and both laws were passed by the legislature.
HERBERT DENNETT
266 S. Cottage St.

COURT SHOULD PICK SITE

To the Editor:
Lately the three members of the Marion County court inspected two suggested places for the removal of the Macleay garbage dump. These sites were located by members of the Citizen's committee six weeks ago. Mr. Rice, accompanied by four members of this committee, drove by these places and in one case interviewed the owner, who is willing to lease or sell acreage for a dump. This site, eight miles east of Macleay, is an excellent place for the purpose, and is favored by the court.
It now develops that the court

Literary . . . Guidepost . . .

By W. G. Rogers
ELEANOR OF A QUIET TIME
AND THE FOUR KINGS, by Amy Kelly (Harvard); \$3

Eleanor's life spanned most of the 12th century, from her birth in 1122 to her death in 1204. Beautiful, intelligent, widely travelled, she may not have been the key to her times but she is the adequate symbol, and yet to the average reader she is best identified, probably, not in her own right but in connection with the men she knew.

She was the wife of two kings and the mother of two. Her first husband was the Capetian Louis VII, the Young, who seems to have been too monkish for her spicy taste. Her second was Henry Plantagenet, who would become England's King Henry II "the staff of my age, the light of my eyes," she lamented when he died of a chance wound in 1189. Richard the Lion-Hearted and King John "Lackland," who a decade after Eleanor's death signed away at Runnymede some of the power acquired by his father and mother, were her sons. Her first husband took her on his crusade in 1147. About 40 years later she returned over the troubled Plantagenet domains, which stretched from the Pyrenees nearly to Scotland, while son Richard, off on his crusade, was battering at the walls of Acre.

In was the time of Abelard, Becket and his murder, troubadours, courts of love. It was the time, too, of fierce and merciless rivalry, with Capet pitted against Angevin, father against son, brother against brother. Wives were bartered for their possessions, and put aside for other wives with more cities and castles in their dowries. For deeds of the greatest cruelty there were precedents of phenomenal humility; if Henry was scourged for Becket, John was haunted for the foul murder of his nephew Arthur.

Eleanor is not just a lovely lady; she has the full stature of a queen. This colorful account fascinates me. In its wildest moments, Hollywood couldn't make up, or make us believe, such drama as is unfolded here. Miss Kelly, who used to teach at Wesleyan, has spent 20 years, intermittently, preparing this book; I don't see how she could have done it in twice that time.

is requesting the citizen's committee to contact the owners of these sites and bargain for their purchase and report back to the court. This is where the patience of the committee begins to run out. It was never agreed, at the public hearing in February, that this committee was to do this. The court has a purchasing agent to take care of that work.

The people in the districts affected by the ill-smelling dump, have done all that the court has asked and now it is up to it to purchase or lease one of the sites located and move the dump immediately. This was emphatically promised to the people on February 28, when members of the court inspected the dump with interested citizens. Are we demanding too much?

(Mrs.) MABEL T. OLSEN
Sec. Citizen's Committee
Route 5, Salem.

None in Sight

To the Editor:
Anyone who thinks Truman would be pardoning Curley if Curley were a republican please hold up his hand.
L. I. FERRIS,
Multnomah, Ore.



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