

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Armageddon

We do not doubt that there is a considerable body of opinions among managers of large corporations, and their boards of directors, in favor of smashing the unions, as Phil Murray, CIO president, charges. He accuses American industry with the deliberate purpose to "destroy" labor unions, to provoke strikes and economic chaos and mulct the people through uncontrolled profits and inflation. His bill of particulars may be too long, and it may not apply to all or even to a majority of the business executives of America. But it is probably true that there are many hardshelled managers who think the time has come for a showdown with labor and who hope to defeat war-imposed closed shop or union maintenance if they are unable to destroy the unions.

Unfortunately however the CIO has awakened fears that its purpose is equally aggressive. It began making stiff demands accompanied by threats of strikes. Some of its unions asserting theories which management said invaded its own province. Its own tactics were hardly such as to invite fraternity in negotiations.

As a result of these hostile attitudes the whole country is locked by bitter strikes in its major industries: steel, General Motors, electrical manufacturing. The general public which would put a plague on both these houses because of its own inconvenience, wants a peace of justice, not one of triumph which would make either capital or labor top dog in this dog-eat-dog contest. The public is fully aware of the dangers of corporate greed and of corporate dictatorship over labor. At the same time it is aware of the dangers of union power accompanied by irresponsibility and of union excesses through extortion. Yet the public is reluctant to intervene to terminate the strife, both because it is not too sure of the tools to use and because it is unwilling to apply compulsion in the dispute. So about all the public does is to wring its hands, deplore the situation and cuss out whichever side irritates its prejudices.

Apparently we have come to a genuine Armageddon in American industry with labor and capital girding themselves for a fight to the death.

Iran and the UNO

After formally requesting the United Nations to look into the situation in northern Iran, and accusing Russia of interference in Iran's affairs, Premier Ibrahim Hakimi resigned as head of the government of Iran. This step may be followed by the formation of a cabinet more pleasing to Russia, leading the way to settlement of the Iranian troubles by direct negotiations. The question has been referred to the UNO security council (on which Russia holds a veto power) by the general assembly of the organization.

Leaders in the new international organization did not want this Iranian dispute dropped in their laps the first thing. Yet it is exactly the type of question which a world organization ought to handle. If the big powers would be willing to let irritating issues like this be settled by a world group the road to peace would be much more direct.

Comparison has been made to the relation of the United States and Mexico, in an effort to explain if not justify Russian favor for the rebels in northern Iran. The comparison will not hold. The United States does not inspire rebellion in northern Mexico. It wants a friendly government in Mexico City, but not a subservient one, and often has had to put up with an unfriendly government. In the matter of oil and lands our government submitted to the confiscation of foreign-owned property by Mexico, requesting only compensation for investment of private owners.

Stalin's reported remark that of course he could not resist the desire of the Armenians in Iran and Turkey for reunion with their cousins in Soviet Russia is sadly reminiscent of previous methods for accretion of territory. The same salty tears accompanied the "reunion" of the Ukrainians and White Russians of Poland with their cousins in the USSR.

It will be an unfortunate start for the UNO if Iran's appeal goes unheeded or if a Russian veto defeats impartial investigation of Iranian claims.

Prelude to Pearl Harbor

The late war was not the first one in which lack of unity in command was apparent and caused difficulties, as the following extract from the diary of President Polk will show. This was during the Mexican war, when General Scott was invading Mexico from the sea. Polk's entry for Feb. 20, 1847 reporting a cabinet meeting reads:

The attack on Vera Cruz became the subject of conversation, when the fact was alluded to that from General Scott's letter of the 12th of January last it would probably be made about this time. The Secretary of the Navy expressed surprise at hearing this and said the "Ohio" and bomb-vessels designed to cooperate with the land forces had not gone round, and said he had not heard of General Scott's letter. I expressed equal surprise at hearing him say this, and addressing him and the Secretary of War I remarked that I had taken it for granted that they were constantly in conference with each other, and that each understood the movements and operations of their respective branches of the service. The Secretary of War remarked that he had supposed that the Secretary of the Navy knew all about it. Mr. Mason (secretary of navy) seemed to be much mortified and left the cabinet to issue orders today to hasten the movement of the naval forces to the gulf. History does seem to have a tendency to repeat itself.

Even As You and I

There is something comforting in news that the president of the United States, despite all the care is taken of him, is getting older and fatter at fully as fast a pace as the rest of us.

Not that we don't wish Harry S. Truman well. We do, of course. But he has been the envy of many of us because of the efforts that are constantly made to keep him fit. He diets (the steaks and ham come in smaller slices on the presidential table now); he exercises (touches his toes and swims); he perspires (in a sweatbox), and he sits under a sun lamp. Whether he has cut down on his never-excessive bourbon consumption isn't recorded.

Anyway, Harry S. Truman since Christmas not only has aged just as many days as we have, but what is more delightfully human, he actually has gained two pounds additional.

We hope the presidential caretakers have better luck with his weight from now on. They'd better, or the chances are he'll say to heck with it and have that extra piece of custard pie regardless.

State Buys Astoria Ferries

The state highway commission has voted to acquire the three ferries operating across the Columbia at Astoria and the slip and properties on the Oregon side, Pacific county, Washington, will acquire the slip on the north bank for use by the ferries. Tired of waiting for joint action with the Washington department of highways, Oregon acted alone. It will continue to collect tolls until the cost of the investment, \$167,000, is extinguished. Then the ferries will become free. If in the meantime the State of Washington would join in the ownership and operation the ferries would be made toll-free.

The reason attributed for Washington's failure to join in acquiring the ferries at Astoria is the fear of owners of Puget Sound ferries that it would set a precedent and the state would soon take over their very profitable ferry operations in Puget Sound waters. There ferries link cities like Tacoma, Seattle, Everett and Bellingham with communities on the numerous islands and across the sound. The private interests want to stay in business. So, according to report, they kill off state acquisition on the Columbia.

Interpreting The Day's News

By James D. White
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 22.—(AP)—A speckled hen in Hiroshima has laid an egg. It was her first since the advent of the atomic age last August.

This is according to the Tokyo Asahi Shimbun. It might mean that the Japanese are thinking better of such widely-spread yarns as the one about Hiroshima never being habitable again because of lingering radioactivity—yarns designed to strengthen the Japanese reaction that the atomic bomb was a crime against humanity.

But it could be that the Asahi doesn't want its readers to forget Hiroshima, which it's doubtful they ever could anyway.

While the Asahi is publicizing the Hiroshima hen, the Kyodo news agency notifies its member newspapers that American censors "are wise to Japanese attempts to evade censorship and are very displeased."

Now this censorship was clamped down by General MacArthur early in the occupation after the Japanese press printed a rash of stories, never proved, charging the first occupation forces with assorted rape, looting and murder. Thus, although they probably would have got a military censorship of a kind for some time, the Japanese in effect asked for what they got.

'Large Men—Small Cars'
Kyodo says Japanese papers now are evading it by mentioning in accounts of current crimes such things as "large men" (most likely to be Americans) and "small type automobiles" (which could be jeeps).

While MacArthur recently described the GI's behavior in Japan as exemplary, no one could expect that among so many men of any nationality there wouldn't be a few roughnecks.

The recent death sentence of an American soldier convicted of killing two Japanese is described by an Associated Press dispatch as "the first of its severity for a crime against a Japanese." This clearly suggests that there have been other crimes committed and punished.

Apart from its implications to Americans, this situation hints that behind the censorship there still is much resentment and probably elements of the super-patriotism which got Japan where she is today.

After the surrender there was much beating of breasts by Japanese politicians in the democratic manner, blaming Japan's bad luck upon the militarists. Some of the higher militarists rent themselves with cold steel to show their remorse at failure. But the lamentations were for failure. Few Japanese saw anything wrong with Japan's international behavior and aims.

Prisoners Forgetting Myth
The Japanese myth has faded only by degrees, and then only in the hot light of truth. It has faded most, perhaps, in the minds of repatriated prisoners.

Originally destined—under Japanese military custom—to be outcasts because they had been captured alive, they found that an American directive had fixed things so they could return as accepted citizens.

They're actually sore now because their people, instead of scoring them, merely ignore them. They think more attention should be paid to them because of their "sacrifices."

They aren't Japan's policy makers. They are just clodhoppers and clerks stuffed into uniforms some years back to do the fighting.

Given a chance, they learn quickly.



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Caught In the Middle

The Literary News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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By Charles Honce

RUDYARD KIPPLING, by Hilton Brown (Harper, 36).

Rudyard Kipling has been dead 10 years. In a decade very little has been said of him, and yet his books still sell widely. For years before he died he lived in an almost impenetrable seclusion at his home in Sussex. His retirement from life was so complete that many persons must have thought him already dead. And still his books were read by the thousands.

In fact, the common garden variety of reader all over the world has been devouring Kipling by the millions ever since he came out of India as a bespectacled youth with a hatful of dreams and an electrical writing style.

The point is that while all of this has been going on, nobody much has been writing about him critically. Back at the turn of the century, a few studies by well known critics appeared. Then came virtual silence. The popular critical attitude through most of this century was to look upon Kipling as written out, a third-rate music-hall performer, an outmoded weaver of words.

Now the critics are beginning to rub their eyes and wonder after all if Kipling wasn't a really great literary artist. Recently, Edward Shanks, a critic of standing, produced a sober estimate of his work. A poet—T. S. Eliot—has newly evaluated his poetry. Now comes Hilton Brown with a searching analysis of this paradoxical man, his work and style. Brown has frankly brought out all of the pros and cons of the business, and he places his chips on Kipling for survival as an artist.

There is one phase of Kipling's career that Brown does not touch. That is the tremendous pothole that has gone on over collecting first editions of his works. A dozen years ago he was the most widely collected author in the world; authentic first editions of his works ran to near 1,000 numbers; some of them brought thousands of dollars. Deflation has come since, but interest still is strong. To put it somewhat commercially, you don't pay \$3,000 for an ugly pamphlet unless you are thoroughly convinced there is value there beyond the ink and paper. It really

seems time that the critics get hep to what's going on in the world about Kipling.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—At approach of the British so-called "loan" dispute in congress, the most popular British figures are suddenly arriving in this country—Mr. Churchill, Lady Astor, labor-party floor leader Herbert Morrison (who addressed the Press club here last night), and a number of other British figures.

The only point proved is that Britain wants the money to re-establish herself financially. Against this contention, critics see the British socialist government has already bought the bank of England, and is coming forward now with a plan to buy the coal mines.

To buy the bank, the government gave the stockholders new special government bonds which seemed to guarantee the high value of the stock. But the trick in that was the bonds were given a special category, which will enable the government to treat them in any special way, apart from the government debt in any future financial pinch.

The plan for government purchase of the coal mines has not yet been defined. No one has said definitely how much they will cost, but special bonds are to be issued, and kept in a special category, their value depending on Britain's future financial condition.

People Control Bank
The people through their government, already control the bank of England, direct interest rates and all financial matters of the nation. They also control the price of coal, the wages of the miners, collect taxes from that business. Thus the people are buying what they already mastered in their own interest.

This is the basic absurdity of the new British type of labor socialism, as many of our reasonable people see it, it forces the peoples' government to assume added obligations to buy something they can already direct for their own best purposes.

Coal is about the only natural resource Britain has. Its production has never been especially profitable and its wage scale has been woefully deficient as compared with ours (some recent figures suggested our general wage scale may be two and one-half times that of the British).

People Still Pay the Bill
When the government buys the mines, the profits, if any, must go to pay for them, to those who own them, thus making not the slightest economic difference. Any improvement in conditions of the miners can be accomplished only at the expense of the people through higher prices or the government taking losses. So under the socialism, as under capitalism, the people would pay the bill.

Socialism somehow cling to the unreasonable notion that profits are a pile of money to be divided if they can get control, whereas profits really are constantly varying returns, dependent wholly upon the volume of business done, its efficiency, salesmanship, costs of materials and a great many factors other than wages.

Purposes Seem Confused
What the coal mines make will depend upon what business the socialists can do with them. For these reasons, British purposes seem to us totally confused.

But the underlying and main valid objection to the "loan" is that it is simply a \$3,750,000,000 cover for the total wiping out, erasing and forgetting the \$25,000,000,000 which the British owe us from lend-lease.

You will recall Mr. Roosevelt sold "lend-lease" to this country as a proposition, where fire had broken out in a neighbor's house, and we had to furnish him the

materials, and after that we were to get the materials back. But now we are to give him the materials and he is to keep them. This is a complete reversal of the original proposition.

It is a complete reversal of the original proposition. It is a complete reversal of the original proposition. It is a complete reversal of the original proposition.

I must say, Oils, that you don't act like a man who had taken part in a score of amphibious landings."

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



I must say, Oils, that you don't act like a man who had taken part in a score of amphibious landings."

Scout Council To Fete Silver Anniversary

The Cascade council of the Boy Scouts of America will celebrate its silver anniversary at the council's 25th annual meeting Sunday, January 27, at the Marion hotel.

More than 125 council members representing scout troop sponsors from Polk, Linn and Marion counties and their ladies will be on hand for the business meeting Sunday afternoon and for the dinner meeting in the evening, said Lyle Leighton, Salem scout executive.

The business meeting beginning at 3:30 o'clock will be presided over by W. L. Phillips, Salem, council president. Plans and busi-

ness for the ensuing year and progress during the past year will be discussed.

Lt. Col. Guy P. Miller, former Portland scout executive and more recently returned from the European theatre where he served under the late Gen. George Patton, Jr., will be principle speaker at the banquet. A highlight of the evening will be the presentation by Norman Freeze, Salem, of Silver beaver awards to two outstanding members of the Cascade council. The two national awards are presented annually for outstanding service to scouting.

Installation of 1946 council officers by Frank Bennett, city school superintendent; scoutmasters' key award by Dr. Robert Lantz of Willamette university; a 25 year veteran award to Ferris White, Albany, by Harry Michelson, Salem assistant scout executive, and an eagle award by Judge Arthur Hay, Salem, are also part of the evening's program.

OSC Dormitory to Rise on Schedule

PORTLAND, Jan. 22.—(AP)—Although opening of bids was postponed four weeks today, construction of the \$900,000 Oregon State college women's dormitory will not be delayed, the secretary of the state board of higher education said.

Dr. Charles D. Byrne said the contract would be awarded right after the bid opening, instead of waiting 30 days until the bond sale is completed. Failure of architects to get prequalification certificates, required by law, caused the postponement.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

"CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE"

To the Editor:
There are circumstances which occur in the life of almost every individual and which occur in such a manner as to demand that he act according to the dictates of the time and place rather than in accordance with established precedent and civil law. Such a circumstance presented itself to the firemen who refused to go two blocks outside the city limits to save a home. The circumstance is of greater importance at this time than at any previous time due to the critical housing shortage.

A very learned writer, Henry Thoreau, refused to obey civil law in Massachusetts and was jailed. His offense was refusal to pay his poll-tax. A "well-meaning but misguided" friend paid the poll-tax and he was quite unwillingly released, unwillingly because this made him a collaborator in a crime against all voters perpetrated by his sovereign state.

During his brief period of time in jail he wrote an essay "The Duty of Civil Disobedience." Of course, our firemen, being so extremely rushed for a little bit of spare time could not possibly be expected to read anything which might make them disturb a brain-cell by reading a very short essay concerning a man's duties to his conscience. When our weary fire-fighters are not tiring themselves to a point of exhaustion mentally and physically with a most nerve-racking game of cards they should be permitted entertainment of a much lighter vein than that of reading worthwhile literature.

The firemen committed a sin of omission, far greater than that of commission had they taken the latter course. But then, how can one expect a brave fire-fighter to have the courage of a mild writer of essays? To find a man willing to go to jail for a worthy cause or to act according to the benefit of humankind is an apparent impossibility in this day of money-madness and fear of loss of prestige, respectability, and jobs.

Very sincerely yours,
MRS. RAY THOMAS
1758 So. 13th St.

Cool Fire
on white fingers

Unusual rings... with stones of glowing color for cool white fingers. Some have birthstones, some are set with gems of her favorite color. A collection in which every ring is a find.

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