

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

Member of the Associated Press

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this newspaper.

Country-Minded

Mayor Earl Riley of Portland says the interim commission investigating taxes is not city-minded so his city council has authorized appointment of a commission which reflects the urban viewpoint. The Portland mayor says the state gets most of the tax money, leaving the cities out in the cold.

There is truth in what the mayor complains of. The state legislature is generally country-minded. Our antiquated representative system makes it more so, because upstate, on a population basis, has larger representation. Both counties and school districts have fared better at the hands of the legislature in tapping the state treasury than have the cities.

On the other hand cities have been spared one huge source of expense. They have had no obligation to pay the costs of public assistance—general relief, old age grants, aid to blind, etc. These costs fall on the counties, the state and the federal government. The majority of persons on assistance rolls are city residents; and if the cities had to contribute to their support they would find the burden extremely heavy.

The real reason for city distress is the reliance almost exclusively on the property tax. The state gets the income tax, the gas and highway use taxes, liquor revenues which have been the expanding sources of revenue. Held to a property tax and that fenced in by the six per cent limitation, the cities have had a tight squeeze to get by.

The growth in demands for public services has also proved embarrassing to cities. Paved streets, sewers, parks, playgrounds, libraries, better fire and police protection,—all these cost money and property is too narrow a base to use for financing all these costs. City financing is a major problem in public finance, not only in Oregon but across the nation.

In California the cities ganged up in the present special session of the legislature and raided the state treasury's surplus of \$350,000,000 (derived chiefly from the sales tax) to the amount of \$90,000,000 for a Santa Claus distribution to cities. Governor Earl Warren vetoed the bill but it was repassed over his veto. This sporadic foray is not the answer to the problem of the cities. Oregon ought to work out a better solution. The state commission should give heed to the needs and the recommendations of the cities if it is going to "solve" our tax problems.

Surprised at Russia?

We see no special reason for surprise at the Canadian arrest of a number of persons suspected of carrying on espionage on behalf of the Russians.

It is possible to be worried about the affair, and to be thankful that the Canadian authorities assisted by our own have been sufficiently astute as to break up whatever network was operating. But to be amazed that this should go forward in time of peace, and at the behest of a former ally and present fellow-member of the United Nations Organization, is to be forgetful of some of the facts of international life which we learned to our cost during the recent war.

It is, regrettably, a fact that the United Nations Organization, although full of hope, has not yet formed itself into an international government of any sort. It is still an organization of nations, united, but still nations. Although it seems inevitable and desirable, that some sovereignty of each nation be ceded to the UNO in the future to achieve real international government, this has not yet been done.

Yet the recent war showed, notably at Pearl Harbor, that no nation which must rely merely upon its own strength to withstand the shock of crisis can possibly be without the best possible information on what is going on in other parts of the world. Moreover, this information must cover what is really going on, not what appears to be happening. In the day of the perfected V-2, which our own army says may shortly be improved to strike any target in the entire world from launching places in the U. S., this is more than ever necessary.

Russia, obviously, felt this to be true, and adopted underground means to complement the information on atomic energy which she must certainly be assembling from every open source on which she can possibly lay her hands. The fact that she used the technique of espionage, and apparently got caught at it, is a serious blow to Russian assurances of friendliness, but is only another illustration of the immense importance which all governments in 1946 ascribe to being minutely informed.

As to the ethics of the matter, espionage has been a fairly highly developed western custom since the fifteenth century, and will probably continue in use for some time to come. Upon that idea, at least, seems to be founded our own recently announced National Intelligence Authority, so the Russians are not the only ones in the field.

Building Costs

During the war the state couldn't build because of restrictions on labor and materials. Now it seems it can't build because of excessive costs. At least the state board of higher education Tuesday rejected bids on dormitories for OSC and the college at La Grande; and the board of control deferred until today action on bids for a dormitory at Cottage farm, operated by the state hospital. The costs run so much higher than estimates that the \$10,000,000 voted in the special levy plus available appropriations will not begin to provide the construction which was contemplated a year ago.

It does not seem possible that a breakdown of material costs would show increases of 100

per cent; and wage rates have not gone up that much. The explanation for the doubled quotations must lie in the current uncertainties and in the delays and low efficiency in operations. The contractor feels he has to increase his cushion in self-protection. It may be true too that the contractor feels he is entitled to a higher profit margin now after living on lean fare through the 1930s. We do not know.

Apparently the only hope for lower costs in the immediate future is in the stabilizing of conditions so materials and labor are available and working efficiency increased. The state can hardly defer essential buildings much longer, and may have to go ahead in spite of the high costs.

The power company has trouble in summer when the wind blows farmers' haycocks across power lines, causing short circuits. Now the telephone company has a complaint. A farmer south of Albany broke the covering on the underground telephone cable when he blasted a ditch.

Dean Packard of OSC says we should have a seismograph in Oregon. If the prediction of Prof. Hodge, noted geologist at OSC, is fulfilled of more earthquakes and bigger ones maybe we should send in a rush order.

Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part strictly prohibited.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—An outside man who knows as much as anyone of the inside of the unions is telling his friends:

"When the strike debacle of this nation is over, there will be only one union. It will be the AFL, and it will be under control of John L. Lewis."

This objective prophet assumes existing leadership is getting beyond its depth. He thinks inept and wild directorship is weakening the setup of the unions, causing shrinkage of coffers, loss of power and dissatisfaction within.

Mr. Lewis, original CIO organizer, importer of the sit-down strike technique, rich mine union chief, now returned to the executive council of AFL, has a large respect in the rank and file on all union sides, where he is rather generally conceded to be the smartest man in the union movement.

Whether one big union under Lewis would furnish any improvement is not the decisive point of the matter. Certainly one union would present greater power than the now divided house. Furthermore, Lewis has established, in his career, a national respect as a trustworthy man. He might be able to establish union responsibility. The personality of any man with leadership powers can be a greater influence than legislation.

But the call for a change must arise, not from these circumstances, but from the union membership, if it is to be effective. Developments at hand will determine the satisfaction or dissatisfaction of the men with the current course of events.

The development of the striking power to atomic proportions has inspired excited inner suggestions, meanwhile.

Ask Truman Impeached
Two separate persons have asked me if Mr. Truman could be impeached. They thought him responsible for the current condition, on this ground:

"His former economic stabilizer was quoted as saying before the strike wave started, that wages could be increased 50 per cent without a price increase—which was an invitation to the unions to make excessive demands. His initial wage increase program is supposed to have called for a 20 per cent increase in wages, but he eliminated the figure from his speech, upon the objections by economic advisors at the last moment. However, the unions knew the figure had been in the speech and acted accordingly."

My answer to these inquiries was that Mr. Truman could be impeached—but will not be. The constitution does not prescribe impeachment for mistakes (if the wage policy was a mistake.) but for malfeasance and corruption, neither of which is suggested by anyone. Furthermore, the house is under administration control. Impeachment would be possible only after a breakdown of government and democratic party leadership.

But some democratic politicians, below the Washington plane, are beginning to speak of creation of a new party. They want to break away from CIO-PAC control over the party, do not like republican leadership, and are thinking along the lines of an independent political movement under aggressive, popular progressive leadership.

Third Party Unlikely
If anything happens along this line, it will be the other way around. The state laws and organization arrangements are such that it is practically impossible to start a new party in this country. Many millions of dollars and more than five years of effort would be required to get one going, once the popular ground was laid for it. If the CIO captures complete control of the democratic party, and a considerable portion of democrats do not like it, they will be forced to go fishing or vote for a republican whom they do not consider satisfactory.

At present, a majority of democrats in congress are holding out against union control but unable to effectuate any affirmative legislative action. If they asserted leadership they could hold the political activities of the unions within their grasp, and establish their own political control.



Distributed by King Features Syndicate by arrangement with The Washington Star Aiming to Please—

The Literary Guidepost

By BOB PRICE

MR. LINCOLN'S CAMERA MAN: MATHEW B. BRADY, by Roy Meredith, Scribner's, \$7.50.

The American Civil war was the first time that people on the home front had anything like an accurate idea what the boys on the battle front were doing and enduring. That was due to one man, Mathew B. Brady, and his photographs.

Brady was the best known photographer in the nation even before the war. His galleries in New York and in Washington were showplaces, his portraits had won prizes in New York and London; in one year, 30,000 persons had come to him for Daguerreotypes.

Brady's cameras were heavy and cumbersome. He worked on the battlefield with portable darkrooms, mounted on wagons under canvas. But his pictures could be claimed with pride by any photographer today.

Unfortunately, the book is not all that it could, or should be. Textually, it is little more than a series of anecdotes strung together on a thin wire of history—interesting, of course, but revealing nothing of the personality of Brady. Indeed, the best and most intimate closeup of Brady in all the 263 pages of text is a quote from a book of fiction.

The writing is amateurish and shot through with irritating errors. Anyone with more than a cursory knowledge of the war will spot the erroneous switch in timing that puts the surrender at Harpers Ferry ahead of the finding of Lee's famous Lost Order in the Antietam campaign. The reference to "feeble resistance" of Union troops on the first day at Gettysburg finds refutation in such casualty figures as the 24th Michigan's 363 dead, wounded or missing out of 496 engaged. There are others, like these, unimportant in themselves but detracting from the soundness of the work.

Another marked lack is the absence of an adequate explanation of Brady's technique, processes and equipment.

The Brady pictures—around 350 of them—are splendid. No book with Brady photographs could be without merit; it is regrettable only that the whole project does not measure up to the same standard.



(Continued from page 1)

will not be attempted in many cases unless fertilizer is available. Cover crops in orchards need nitrates to stimulate growth; pasturage is much more valuable if it can be fertilized. Many growers of hops and berries and mint have lands which require commercial fertilizer to make them productive. A report from California says that potato growers in Kern county are cancelling orders for seed potatoes, being unwilling to plant unless they can get 130 lbs of nitrogen and 700 lbs of ammonium sulphate per acre.

The information shows how important commercial fertilizers are, not only for the prosperity of the farmer but also for the food production which is urgently needed in 1946. Art King of the college extension service who has been working on the problem estimates that the value of farm crops will be increased \$3,000,000 if farmers can get 6000 tons more of ammonium sulphate this season.

The Salem alumina plant is able to produce ammonium sulphate and the management is willing to do so. Ammonium sulphate is required in the process of reducing clay to alumina; so the production of this fertilizer is just one step in its operation. The plant is just at the testing stage as far as alumina processing is concerned, and the ammonium sulphate can be manufactured with little or no interference with the testing.

Immediately required are approval by RFC of manufacture of ammonium sulphate at the plant, at the new price, and approval of the price by OPA. The department of agriculture ought to lend a hand to help get this fertilizer out in time for use this spring. Local people want to have a thorough trial made of the process of extracting alumina from clay; but we want also to sustain our agriculture and can well back up the efforts of the extension service to employ the plant this spring in the making of ammonium sulphate for farm use.

Soroptimists Hear Director Of Red Cross

Salem and Marion county have not provided for transient veterans as have many other less-populated cities and counties, Virginia Stevens, director of home service for the American Red Cross, told Salem Soroptimists as she addressed their Wednesday noon luncheon meeting at the Golden Pheasant.

Homeless and sometimes familyless, this group needs cooperation from the community just as much as do the men and women who formerly lived here, she declared. The period of adjustment between discharge and employment or receipt of the emergency unemployment compensation is especially difficult for men coming here from other parts of the country, Mrs. Stevens said.

The Red Cross is principal agency now attempting to serve transient veterans; last month it loaned in small sums \$595.60 to such persons in Marion county. It is the organization which most often serves where others are prohibited because of technicalities, Mrs. Stevens indicated, telling of the advisory service offered families of servicemen and veterans, widows or other surviving dependents of those who died in the service.

Four girls from Hillcrest school were special guests of the organization.

Irrigation Survey To Start Soon

Survey of the proposed irrigation project, involving approximately 5000 acres of orchard lands in The Dalles vicinity, will get under way by a federal agency within a few weeks, Senator Guy Cordon Wednesday advised John W. Kelly, secretary of the Oregon postwar development and readjustment commission.

It is proposed to obtain the bulk of water required for the project from the Columbia river. Sponsors of the project declared that unless irrigation was provided many outstanding orchards in The Dalles district would become less productive within a few years.

Minister Tells of Nip Prison Life

American prisoners of the Japanese at Santo Tomas prison camp on Luzon existed on a diet containing only 650 calories a day during their last six months of imprisonment, the Rev. Herbert J. Riley told Willamette university students Wednesday in a chapel address.

The Rev. Riley, his wife and two children, were imprisoned there three years. He plans to return to the Philippines to resume his missionary work soon.

Eldon Campbell to Talk On Broadcasting

"The American System of Broadcasting" will be the subject of Eldon Campbell's address tonight at the weekly meeting of the radio class which meets every Thursday in the basement room of the city library. The meeting is open to the public.

Campbell is program manager for radio station KEX in Portland and has had a wide experience in presenting programs for the radio audience.

MAY RAISE HAIRCUTS

PORTLAND, Feb. 20 (AP)—A boost in the price of haircuts to \$1 was in prospect here today following last night's recommendation of the raise by the barbers' local No. 75. Talks are scheduled with master barbers, the employers, and the increase proposal will again be before the local at its March meeting.

New Social Club Completes Plans for First Dance Friday

Completed plans for the Washington Birthday dance which is to inaugurate the new city social and recreation club's program designed to better acquaint veterans and newcomers to Salem, were announced Wednesday by the club co-chairmen, Carl Greider and Mrs. Elizabeth MacDowell.

The dance at VFW hall Friday at 8:30 p. m. will be the first of a series of such dances scheduled for the fourth Friday each month. Music for this Friday's affair will be provided by Claude Bird's orchestra and the Willamette freshman trio which includes Aldene Gould, Jo Ann Pallese and Carol Dimond.

Red Cross to Open Campaign Headquarters

Headquarters for the American Red Cross fund campaign in Marion county opened Wednesday at the Valley Motor company, 375 Center st. The campaign begins March 1 to continue through the month, but the headquarters are opened before that in order to get out supplies and line up the campaign plans.

Blanche Allen is in charge of the office, assisted by Mrs. George Roth. A telephone number for the office will be announced later. This is the third drive that the Valley Motor company has loaned space for the headquarters for the Red Cross.

All rural district chairmen for the Marion county campaign are being contacted by Olive D. Bynon, chapter executive manager, and F. A. Doerfler, rural division chairman for the drive, this contact work to be concluded this week. Members of the motor corps have been taking the two officials to visit the various districts.

The club's board of trustees, recently selected, includes Mrs. Esther Little of the YWCA, Mrs. Albert J. Walker of Salem Council of Women's Organizations, C. A. Kells of the YMCA and Robert Boardman of the USO.

Tickets for the dance may be obtained at the YM or YW or from Aubrey Thompson at the Montgomery Ward store and Elinor Danielson at the Picha real estate office.

Career Girls Urged To Study Nursing

Girls interested in careers are being urged to consider nursing as a profession by Henrietta Doltz, director of the department of nursing at the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland. She pointed out this week that 63,866 vacancies are now open to college trained nurses. Better opportunities exist today, according to Miss Doltz, than ever before in the higher ranks. Need for nurses in public health, veterans administration, teaching positions in schools, and in the field of psychiatry have reached an unprecedented peak.

Valley Welders to Erect Building

Valley Welders of Salem soon will be housed in a new building, it was disclosed Wednesday when Gustave Klemper took out a city building permit authorizing construction of a \$2000 welding shop building at 340 market st.

Other permits issued by the city engineer Wednesday went to E. B. Houser for a \$5200 house at 1985 N. Liberty st., W. R. Porter for a \$8800 house at 1520 Madison st., and Earl Mootry for a \$1200 storage and heating building at 1999 N. Capitol st.

Silverton Couple Found Not Guilty

Mr and Mrs. Charles Davis of Silverton were found not guilty of assault and battery in a jury trial at Justice Joseph B. Felton's court Wednesday.

The trial grew out of an alleged altercation after a Silverton high school basketball game, said to involve a 16-year-old boy student of the school, Mrs. Davis, who is a teacher there, and her husband.

Bill Nelson Initiated By Pharmacy Society

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Feb. 20 (Special)—Bill Nelson, Salem senior, has been recently initiated by Kappa Psi, men's pharmacy honor society. This organization promotes interest in professional and ethical pharmacy through discussions in pharmaceutical and allied fields.

Nelson is also a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"I don't propose a pension for ALL congressmen—just for those who are uselessly devoting the rest of their careers to the Pearl Harbor investigation!"

STEVENS
Diamonds - Watches
Jewelry

Fine watches for both ladies and men. Famous names, favorite modern designs, precious movements and special features. Come in and see our fine collection.

Budget Payments

Phone 8118

329 Court Street