

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Army Merit System

Secretary of War Patterson and General Eisenhower are said to be considering changing the plan of promotion in the army from one determined largely by length of service to a merit system. This will prove popular, for the word "merit" carries a fine connotation. Who is there to object to promotions on "merit"? Nevertheless it is true that there is a big gap between such a system in theory and in practice. The older officers who are said to object to the change are doing so not merely out of stubbornness or fear of damage to their own prospects. They can see the difficulties of keeping such a system clean in an organization as big as the army.

With a veteran in nearly every home the public is much more aware of the importance of advancement in rank to men in military service. Even the step up to private first class is hailed with pride both by the soldier making it and by his relatives. Likewise is known the impatience that comes if advancement is long delayed, and the jealousies that arise if comrades are advanced and others passed over.

Officer promotion now is based not alone on length of service. Army boards review cases and may delay promotions if the officer is not up to snuff. But in peacetime, with so much surplus time on hand, officers put in a great deal of their effort in trying to wheedle out promotions. It would be far worse if the length of time in a grade was reduced or eliminated. Every captain would set his eyes on a brigadier's star and every major would want to skip a couple of grades. Keeping an officer list happy in such a situation would be a task for a commander with Eisenhower's ability at diplomacy.

Add to the intrigue and apple polishing of the officers the wire-pulling of army wives and the merit system is subjected to further strains. A father-in-law on the senate appropriations committee is no one to be sneezed at by the war department. President Polk fell out with Senator Benton of Missouri over the treatment given his son-in-law, John C. Fremont.

A merit system? Yes, if it remains a real merit system. But the reform which is more badly needed is to erase the undemocratic caste system which sets officers on a pedestal and makes pariahs of enlisted men. What are the army and navy going to do about that?

He Should Know Where to Go

If anyone has inclined toward impatience with demobilized veterans because some of them haven't "settled down," he or she should read that list of servicemen's advisory agencies (in Friday's Statesman). How can a man "settle down" when he has to tramp the streets from one agency to another to find the answers to the numerous problems which crop up in the transitory period from military to civilian life?

For months The Statesman has received handouts from one agency or another purporting to answer various questions of servicemen. Not once prior to a few days ago was there any concerted effort to give the veterans a composite picture of where they could go to get the answers to their own particular problems—each of which has its own ramifications and which cannot be blanketed in all the stories in the world.

In this area of Marion county alone, there are seven federally-authorized agencies, three state agencies, three county agencies, six Salem agencies and five veterans' organizations ready to help discharged servicemen. Some of them deal in several kinds of problems, others only in one. Most of them apparently haven't known in exactly what category the others operated. They often offered more confusion than information.

In making public this recently-arranged list of agencies, their duties, their leaders and their addresses, The Statesman hopes it can serve a better purpose than it could be publishing a whole bale of the individual statements of organizations. If a veteran knows where to go to find out what he wants, he'll dig up a better answer than any newspaper can give him. The Statesman will try to keep on giving this type of information.

Clipping Petrillo's Wings

Both house and senate have passed bills designed to clip the wings of J. Caesar Petrillo, czar of the musicians' union and (ex officio) virtual czar of music and radio in this country. The house bill, the stronger of the two prohibits the use of force, violence or threat to compel a radio station to "pay tribute" for the use of records and transcriptions, to force a broadcaster to employ more persons than the station needs (standby orchestras), to coerce a broadcaster to bar non-commercial programs in which participants draw no pay and to force a station to bar programs originating outside the United States. The last is aimed at Petrillo's recent order prohibiting broadcasting foreign music programs unless standby musicians are hired.

Even if the more drastic house bill is passed there is still a question if its teeth will really grip. For Petrillo's coercion is applied on his union, with no violence or threat of violence against a radio station. He simply pulls off his union members if his terms are not met. He can continue to lay down conditions of employment and radio stations may still be left out in the cold unless they comply.

He is a mean little tyrant who has used the immunity of workera's rights as guard for his dictatorship. We will have to wait and see whether this legislation really does clip the wings of his power.

Walker Files; Burke Retires

Important news on the legislative political situation is the filing of candidacy for reelection by Dean Walker of Independence who represents Polk and Benton counties in the senate, and the announcement of Senator W. E. Burke of Yamhill county that he will not be a candidate. Walker is one of the invaluable men in the senate, his major field of service being on ways and means, assessment and taxation and education committees. Benton county republicans who have waived their county's possible claim to rotation for this office are to be commended on insisting that Walker run again. They are amply rewarded however in the constructive service Walker renders not only to their district but to the state.

The retirement of W. E. Burke removes one of the strong political figures from active participation in politics. His name is attached to the Burke bill to confine the sale of fortified wines to state stores, a bill which he fought for through several sessions of the legislature and through a referendum. But Senator Burke was a vigorous leader in politics in this state from the days of Jonathan Bourne with a great record as a fighter for causes in which he believed. Eugene Marsh, present speaker of the house, will file for the senate and is regarded as a certain winner in the 1946 elections. He will be an able successor to Burke.

Successful Bargaining

Papers have been full of stories of strikes and shutdowns in industries big and little, and a lot of opprobrium has been heaped on labor unions. Little news is printed about the industries and unions which get along successfully and have no tieups in operations. Yet the number of workers steadily employed far exceeds those on strike. In other words there is more of peace than war in industry at any given time.

The Salem newspapers for instance have concluded agreements with the various crafts employed by them. True collective bargaining prevailed, differences were ironed out and settlements made on terms mutually satisfactory. Contracts run for terms up to three years with privilege of annual opening for wage adjustments. Arbitration clauses are included, but arbitration has not been required here for many years.

Both employers and union representatives seem to appreciate the value of good working relations and to be ready to do their part to maintain them. If more of that spirit would prevail throughout industry there would be less strife and less loss in production and in wages. More publicity should be given to the cases of agreement, which are more numerous than those of deadlock.

Interpreting The Day's News

By James D. White
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 22 (AP)—The easiest thing to remember about the great Indian mutiny of 1857 is that business about the greased cartridge.

The British were introducing the Enfield or Minie rifle. It used a cartridge greased on the end, which had to be bitten off before using.

Word got around among the Mohammedan soldiers (who abhor pork) that the grease was lard. The Hindu soldiers (who don't eat beef) heard it was suet. They figured the cartridge was an unholy thing.

But this was only one of the foreign things Britain was bringing to India which tended to upset entrenched custom and caste.

At that time India still was the preserve of the British East India company. British troops there numbered some 38,000, with more than ten times that number of native troops of various races and creeds.

British Strength Low
British strength just then was low, as Britain had been fighting Russia in the Crimea and the Persians in Persia.

The Indian troops were mostly Bengalese, and were feeling their oats after helping the British subdue the Punjab in the north.

A British cavalry officer at Meerut, near Delhi, decided the greased cartridge issue had to be disposed of, and ordered some Bengalese soldiers to use it. They refused, and were tried and sentenced for mutiny.

Rebellion flamed down the valley of the Ganges. Discontented elements supported the mutinous soldiers. Mobs rioted and plundered.

The British had just begun to build railways. Their garrisons were separated. It was the hottest time of the year. In the confused fighting that followed, various cut-off garrisons starved and thirsted behind the murderous siege lines set up against them. The commander at Cawnpore surrendered with the understanding he would be evacuated to Allahabad. His force was wiped out, and women and children after them. The commander at Lucknow held on, to be relieved in a spectacular rescue that has become a by-word in English history.

Drive to China Diverted
Gurkha and Sikh troops whose fathers had fought the British a generation before now joined in the British against the Bengalese. A British expedition to China was diverted to India.

The tide turned, and Delhi was recaptured, where the old Mogul government had been revived by the rebels.

The fighting lasted two years in places. Chief result of the mutiny is generally said to be the end of the British East India company's rule. On August 2, 1858, long before the shooting ended, Queen Victoria signed a law which transferred the administration of India to the crown, in charge of a cabinet minister to whom the viceroy would be responsible.

Amnesty was offered all rebels who hadn't been leaders or who hadn't been guilty of killing British.



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Every Cloud Has Its Silver Lining

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page 1)

appointing him to a navy post, because of his own interest in these particular oil fields. Companies in which he is a stockholder are now drawing oil from these fields under lease from California. Had Pauley been appointed to some other office than one in the navy or interior departments there probably would have been little objection raised. It is the conflict of interest which raises the stink now.

The affair Pauley has also obscured the claims of California to title over the oil fields lying offshore. The state derives handsome royalties from its present oil leases. Its attorney general, Robert Kenney, is resisting the federal suit vigorously and has secured the support of 45 other states in the action now before the supreme court. While other states may not have oil fields they may have hopes; and they are concerned also lest they lose title to rights along the shore. For example if the federal government establishes title to lands below the low water mark, titles to property on filled-in tide lands would be put in jeopardy, also our claim to the Oregon beaches and leases for docks and wharves. No wonder the states are alarmed.

The disputed area is that within the three-mile limit. President Truman by proclamation not long ago asserted federal sovereignty over lands beyond the three-mile zone up to the 12-mile limit (which was the extension of federal authority in rum-running days). The 13 original colonies claim title to lands offshore by virtue of descent from the English crown; and Texas claims title because it entered the union as sovereign and never ceded to the federal government title to these lands. California was a territory and when admitted to the union assented to federal ownership of public lands. Oregon is the same. But these states were given title to the beds of navigable streams, which gives

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

HOME OWNERS' SIDE
To the Editor:

In answer to the editorial "Killing the Golden Goose" in the Capital Journal of Wednesday, February 20, I would like to say the writer of that article should take the time to visit once in a while those council meetings so that he might learn that the plain citizens of Salem have some rights that are protected.

As for the city council, I believe that it has shown its wisdom in tabling this ordinance, for everyone knows there are two sides to every question.

Let's look at the home owners' side. We have a nice clean living district in Rosedale and are paying high taxes besides having to observe certain restrictions about building, etc. So can you blame us for objecting to having factories placed in our back yard? Should the proposed change of zone 2 to zone 4 go through, the industrial site would be only the width of 16th street from the front yard of the nearest residential property. As we were told that there are log trucks, railroad and cars to be used in bringing material and workers to the plant proposed by Cascades Plywood, there would be a lot of noise involved, not to mention the traffic hazard for the children in the neighborhood.

Another thing — why does Keith Brown want to locate this factory on the very edge of a nice residential district when he has 20 acres undeveloped about six lots northwest of these citizens' property?

I hope that we have elected for our city a council of wise men who will continue to represent all the people and not turn dictators as the writer of the "Golden Goose" article would like to have them be.

Yours truly,
Margaret Gerling
1955 N. 17th St.

a color of title to the offshore lands.

The question is a difficult one both in law and in equity. It is unfortunate that it has been obscured by the reported attempt by Pauley to traffic oil money for suppressing of litigation.

SHINING GOALS
To the Editor:

How many of us have reflected seriously on what it is that makes us go? What causes the bunch of otherwise inert material that is identified as you to move and think?

You are told it is this and that. But who told those who told you? And who told them? Get the idea? Many think they rely on the book of their faith, but who is responsible for that and how is their responsibility established? All we have is their word for it.

We are warned that we should not go too far with our questioning because it may undermine our faith and plunge us into the hell of confirmed skepticism or worse. But it would rather appear that just the reverse is safer thinking — that any such idea is foolish fear — the very resort and source of the bigoted intolerance that has terrorized humanity from time immemorial.

Indeed, do we not find here the point at which intolerant power discovered the advertising value of meekness, charity, and all that is sweetening to human existence as its program and justification for the enforcement of its authority to whatever beastial degree seemed necessary to its own exaltation and immunity?

Here, indeed, we reach the point of the purely imaginary conflict between science and religion — the point, in fact, where science exalts religion and religion, in turn, inspires science. Better thinkers have realized the fact for a long time, but in the rush and crush to survive under prevailing concepts of success, ignorance has been relied upon as the convenient state of bliss actually preferable to the drastic demands of developing wisdom.

Thus we are led increasingly to realize the colossal, unthinkable, demoralizing waste in every department of our activity, everywhere we look, when set alongside the vital necessities of our substantial progress and happiness.

And thus does the one and only enduring power of faith inspire us with the courage to carry on in view of the shining goals on the horizon.

R. A. Harris

888 N. Commercial St.

Salem, Oregon.

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

I LOVE MISS TILLI BEAN, by H. K. Chase (Doubleday, \$2.50). The thing you expect doesn't take place, the thing you don't expect does — that's the secret of this novel.

Miss Chase starts you off in a little New Jersey town, speeds you to Italy, then to Paris, and wipes her hands of you in New York. You believe you're going to learn how to run a general store and postoffice; then you change to a restaurant; finally you enter the dressmaking business.

Furthermore the characters are possessed by this same dramatic undependability. A man appears to be single, proves to be married. Another who looms up as a rake and a frightful threat to poor Tilli suddenly turns impotent, or in his own explicit words:

"God in heaven, don't you see? Can't you understand? I can never be a husband to you. Not ever, ever. If I had been mutilated in the war I would have been no more useless than I am now."

Still another man would will-

Retail Clerks Add New Members

Clerks from three more Salem retail establishments have been added to the steadily growing list of the Retail Clerks Union, H. L. Edling, secretary of the union who has been carrying on the union's reorganization campaign in Salem the past month, announced Friday. This week workers in Smith's Bakery, Benson's Bakery and Pade's Market signed with the union.

Veteran U. S. Military Pilots To Organize

Military pilots who flew for the army, navy and marine corps during the war have formed a nationwide organization known as the Military Pilots association, according to Charles F. Fearing, 730 Thompson ave., who displays one of the organization's first membership cards.

Fearing is a former first lieutenant in the army air corps, with 28 months overseas experience in the Pacific, European and CBI theaters.

The prime purpose of the association is social, according to Fearing, an international fraternity of the air, resembling the Quiet Birdmen of World War I. All former American military pilots are eligible.

A subsidiary aim of the organization is to find jobs for the former military pilots who wish to become pilots on civilian airlines.

Fearing has contacted the headquarters of the organization at Little River station in Miami, Fla., for authority to organize a local chapter of the organization at Salem.

Portland Young Folk Will Come To Salem Meeting

A delegation of 12 young people from the Portland youth for Christ will present vocal and instrumental numbers at the First Evangelical church, Summer at Marion st. Sunday, February 24, at 7:30 p. m. Louis Pilbeam, director of the Portland Youth for Christ orchestra and minister of music at the First Evangelical church in Portland, will be in charge.

Special numbers will include a trombone quartet, saxophone quartet, organ, piano, baritone horn trio, and instrumental solos. The mother-daughter trio from the Fellowship Haven Broadcast will present special vocal selections. Last fall this group was present here last fall. The minister, the Rev. Wilmer N. Brown, will speak.

The third in a series of sermons from the book of Hebrews will be given by the pastor at the 11 a. m. worship service on the theme "Christ Preeminent."

The Rev. E. W. Praetorius, D.D., bishop of the northwest area of the Evangelical church will speak Wednesday, February 27, 7:45 p. m. at a mass meeting of the Evangelical churches of the district. The public is invited to all of these services.

Former Army Chaplain Speaks at Clear Lake Revival During Week

Special services which began last Wednesday at the Clear Lake church will continue the coming week at 7:45 nightly except Saturday. Chaplain John E. Rittermeyer is the evangelist, and is considered well qualified for his position. He spent 18 years as a pastor, and the last three years as an army chaplain. Monday he will tell of his experiences as chaplain in England, France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, and will display a collection of souvenirs.

ingly marry the girl except that he can't decently get rid of his wife because she is both a dipsomaniac and a nymphomaniac, lovely Lily, "like a flower," whom he found "naked on their bed, dead drunk, and naked and drunk beside her was Jose, the colored gardener."

Characters are Tilli Bean, who tells the story; her widowed mother, Maude Matilda; and her grandpa, the Rechetti family, Pierre, Chicoree, Emilia, the Chillingworths, Lord Haversham, Donald Mayne, Sandal, Cecco Poppi, Earl Rydiker, Abel Stone, Primrose Jones, Sonya, Henry Farley and so on, as international as UNO.

Written in the determination to ring all possible changes on the unexpected, this novel discards probability and plausibility and bounces energetically on to the end, like the little metal ball which, on the sloping surface of a barroom game of chance, pings from one obstacle to another and rolls finally to the bottom, with no score.

Miss Chase has used the surprise technique. But the biggest surprise of all is that the author of "In Bed We Cry" couldn't do better.

Jackson Asks Realtors Aid In Rent Control

Real estate agents must do their bit toward helping to curb inflation by conscientiously refraining from over-selling real estate, Virgil Jackson, former economics instructor, told the Salem Board of Realtors at the board's weekly business luncheon Friday noon at the Marion hotel.

Jackson, proprietor of Standard Cleaners and a former major in the army chaplain's corps, outlined the general world economic situation and its future possibilities.

As the situation stands now, he told the board, the world must choose either communism or capitalism. In the United States, he added, a medium course has been taken up to the present, but no one knows what the future holds.

During the board's business meeting Nila Cluett was announced as new treasurer by President E. D. Potter, taking over the position from William G. Hardy, who resigned the post.

James Beasom Local Speaker For Lutherans

The Rev. James P. Beasom, D.D., will speak at the Lutheran world action rally at St. Mark's Lutheran church next Sunday, Feb. 24, at 8 p. m.

Dr. Beasom was recently elected full-time president of the California Synod of the United Lutheran church in America for the next five years. He has held the presidency for the last three years in addition to his pastorate of First Lutheran church, Glendale, Calif.

Salem has been chosen as one of the 500 communities in the United States in which rallies will be conducted, and Dr. Beasom is one of 62 leading Lutheran churchmen who will present the vital needs of Lutheran World Action. Dr. Beasom is also president of the Southern California Lutheran Welfare council, giving unsparringly of his time to ease the burden of suffering among his fellowmen.

The financial goal of Lutheran World Action for two years, 1946-47, is \$10,000,000, which will be used for the spiritual reconstruction of churches in Europe, as well as for orphaned Lutheran missions in China, India, Asia Minor, Africa, Japan and New Guinea. Under LWA also are home missions, emergency welfare service, American Bible society and work with prisoners of war.

Since 1939 Lutheran World Action has accomplished a great work for emergency wartime and postwar causes among the nearly 80,000,000 Lutherans throughout the world.

It is not the purpose of this rally to receive an offering at this time, but rather to acquaint Lutherans with the tremendous challenge of Lutheran World Action, and to receive offerings in the local congregations at a later date.

Public Records

Municipal Court
Edward J. Lesser, Portland, violation of the basic rule, \$7.50 bail.

Elvin Trick, 1645 Nebraska st., reckless driving, \$50 bail.

Jesse D. Coburn, jr., Newberg, violation of the basic rule, \$5 bail.

Herbert F. Quaders, Turner, no driver's license, \$5 bail.

Chester Nelson, route 6, box 333, failure to stop, \$2.50 bail.

Rex A. Grabenhorst, route 3, box 95, violation of the basic rule, \$10 bail.

Dale N. Bever, 280 Pine st., violation of the basic rule, \$7.50 bail.

Stevens

Diamonds
Watches — Jewelry

The birthstone for February is the amethyst. This one set in massive gold mounting is one he will be proud to wear!

Extended Payments

330 Court Street

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Is that something to congratulate him about?—Just because they made him an honorary white man when he went to Washington?"