

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page, the editors of The Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair, and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

A NEWSPAPER IS A CITIZEN OF ITS COMMUNITY.

THE WAR DEBTS

SOMETIME in the very near future, the people of the United States are going to have to do a lot more serious, unemotional thinking about the allied war debts than they ever have done before.

It needn't have taken the news about the "gentlemen's agreement" to make us realize that the reparations settlement depends largely on what is done about the war debts. The two propositions always were tied together as closely as a couple of Siamese twins, whether official persons choose to admit the fact or not.

The reparations bill has been settled at something like one cent on the dollar. The allies are going to try very hard to settle the debts on much the same basis. And it's up to Uncle Sam's children to start thinking about it.

There are several basic facts to be recognized first of all.

The first is that no matter what sort of agreement, if any, is ultimately reached, the chance for our government collecting more than a fraction of the sums due is about as good as the Boston Red Sox' chances for winning the world's championship this year. Most of that money is gone for good, and we might as well make up our minds to it.

The second is that there is no sense in any American feeling apologetic or ashamed because of this country's record in regard to the debts. The war for which those debts were contracted was strictly a European product; we had no part in starting it, we got nothing whatever out of it, and we have already canceled billions of dollars worth of debts due us. Those lofty remarks about "Uncle Shylock" need bother no one.

The third is that while the allies may not be able to pay, they are holding the loot they took from Germany in the Treaty of Versailles—Germany's colonies, Germany's merchant fleet, Germany's coal and iron, a sizeable slice of Germany's territory; and they are still able to spend vast sums annually on preparations for new wars.

Digest all of those facts before you tackle the debt question. We may have to kiss the debts goodbye, but we might at least know just what the situation is.

HOLDING COMPANIES.

THE Federal Power Commission's recommendation that strict federal regulation be applied to public utility holding companies is a move with which there can hardly be any serious quarrel.

To begin with, the holding company as such has lost a lot of its once glamorous reputation. Since 1929, it has become painfully apparent that the public benefits resulting from a holding company are not often visible to the naked eye. To industry, they are often a source of weakness instead of strength. There is not apt to be much concern over a measure which would bring them under Uncle Sam's close supervision.

Furthermore, the public utility holding company occupies a special position that makes federal supervision a necessity.

A public utility operates under the instructions of a public commission. It is the duty of this commission, first, to protect the consumer from exorbitant rates, and second, to permit the utility itself to make a fair return on its investment. And it is right here that the holding company steps in. Consider, for instance, the case of a power company supplying electricity to a certain neighborhood. This company has a total valuation, let us say, of \$5,000,000, on which it is allowed a return of 6 per cent. So far, so good.

Enter now the holding company, or, rather, a series of holding companies. Figures begin to get jumbled. Subsidiary companies owned by the same parent company are called in to do construction and other work for the original concern, at extra high prices. Presently the original company emerges with a valuation that has leaped from the original \$5,000,000 to something like \$25,000,000.

Where, now, does the public utilities commission get off in its effort to protect the public from unfair rates? It can do nothing but permit a return of 6 per cent on the higher figure. John Public pays the bill.

The Power Commission's recommendation ought to get speedy and favorable consideration by Congress in the next session.

HUMAN NATURE IN ALASKA.

THE social climber is usually supposed to be a creation of the city civilization; and that he could exist among savage tribes living in the stone age seems quite impossible. But Kalervo Oberg, student of anthropology who recently returned from a visit to northwestern Alaska, reports that a tribe of Thlingit Indians there plays the high society game with grim and feverish determination.

According to Mr. Oberg, these Indians strive to get rich—in furs, blankets, copper shields and the like—not for the things that wealth can buy, but for the sake of social prestige. The tribe has its "old families" which have been rich for generations and which look down on the parvenu families. It has its climbers who give elaborate parties in order to crash the gates of high society. It has its lower classes, to whom the higher groups will not speak.

If there is a moral to all of this, it would seem to be that snobbery and conceit are traits very deeply engrained in human nature.

THE WAR ON ILLITERACY.

THE Census Bureau has revealed that on April 15, 1930, the United States contained 4,232,753 illiterates—just 4.3 per cent of the 98,723,753 inhabitants of the nation who were then ten years of age or older on that date.

At first blush this seems to be a dismayingly large number, and the record looks like a disgraceful blot on the nation's record. But there is comfort to be got by examining the figures in detail.

To begin with, the percentage of illiteracy has been steadily decreasing for four decades. In 1890, 13.3 per cent of the population was illiterate; in

1900 the percentage was 10.7; in 1910 it was 7.7 and in 1920 it was an even 6. If the percentage is higher than it might be, it is at least dwindling at a fairly rapid rate.

In addition, the bulk of our 4,000,000-odd illiterates are getting on in years. Only 429,635 of them were under 21. Considering all these facts, it is clear that the war on illiteracy is making very good progress.

An observer remarks that a brave man with the courage to say No could make \$50,000 a year in Hollywood. And all this time Senator Borah has been wasting his time in Washington for a mere \$10,000.

Another advantage of having one's education in the College of Hard Knocks is that you don't get a letter every so often asking if you will contribute your share to building a new ping-pong gym for Dear Old Whoosla.

Two wrestlers fell out of the ring in Boston and were knocked unconscious simultaneously. But the really remarkable thing was that the observing referee noticed it and stopped the match.

The R. F. C. seems likely to change that old campaign slogan of Two Cars in Every Garage to Two Mortgages on Every Home.

A western college reports the enrollment of a man 70. He must have won that magazine scholarship at last.

From the campaign speeches, it is already apparent that the nation is certainly going to be saved from something awful in November.

Just now it seems that both major political parties made a grave error by not coming out flatly for milder summers.

It may sound a little odd, but Clara Bow is trying to build herself up in the movies by taking off a little more weight.

Al Capone is playing first base on the Atlanta Penitentiary team. Well, he should be a good one to hold the bag.

WHAT OTHER EDITORS THINK

A PICTURE OF CONGRESS

GENERAL CHARLES H. MARTIN, democratic congressman from the Second district, Multnomah county, says some plain words about congress on his return from his first session.

The congressman finds that some of the finest men of the country are in the body but that there are many more who haven't the "courage of a cotton-tail rabbit," whose actions are framed according to the currents of popular opinion. The general finds that these men are not corrupt but that they are "small men, rattling around in big chairs." Their lives, the general says, in constant fear of losing their jobs.

Very likely the general's assessment of the crowd of little fellows in congress is pretty close to the fact. It is this class that provides the demagogue and the windbag which subject our national lawmaking body to the contempt and disgust of patriotic, upstanding Americans.

The trouble is that these men are more concerned with perpetuating themselves in office than they are with the best interests of the nation. They do not realize that defeat is sometimes the surest index to character and ability; that there is more honor and glory in defeat than in holding their convictions against the will of the people. The general finds that these men are not corrupt but that they are "small men, rattling around in big chairs." Their lives, the general says, in constant fear of losing their jobs.

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WASHINGTON LETTER

By RODNEY DUTCHER
 (NEA Service Writer)

WASHINGTON, July 27.—Most of the petty "grat" and the cheap little tricks which members of Congress employ to augment their salaries are going to get a full airing in this year's congressional campaigns.

They have been exposed more mercilessly than ever before and the fellows who are out to get the seats of the present members already have begun to raise them as issues.

The practice of putting members of the family on the federal payroll as clerks, the collections of mileage allowances which are never spent, the economical practice of Senator Park Trammell, who sleeps in his office, the junkets of congressional committees and the franking privilege have all been taken for a ride—just as if they hadn't always been practiced and as if they represented more than a tiny drop in the big bucket of federal expenditures.

MUCH EXPLAINING DUE

Some members will have an easy time explaining themselves, while others are likely to find it difficult. No one, for instance, is likely to have the nerve to criticize Speaker Canner for employing his efficient wife as his secretary.

There are many similar cases where relatives, some of whom were employed by members long before they came here, are rendering able, faithful service both to the members and their constituents. On the other hand, some rather tall stories will have to be told to explain the value of senatorial or congressional relatives who are on the payroll, but are notoriously absent from the offices in which they are supposed to work.

THEN THERE'S THE RECORD

A nice point was raised at the very end of the session when the Senate broke into a brief debate as the propriety of printing political speeches in the Congressional Record, which costs \$58 a page.

It's an old Senate custom to permit political speeches such as those the cabinet members are delivering for Mr. Hoover and both houses let their members run more or less wild in printing speeches of their own which are never actually delivered, but which may be mailed out during the campaigns.

Copies of the latter, with the composition already paid for, are bought at cost—about \$2.40 a thousand—and shipped free of charge to as many constituents as a member wants to reach.

BORAH'S ATTITUDE

Senator Borah says the habit of tossing political speeches into the Record costs hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. The nice point is how much of the stuff that goes into the record is worth the expense.

Obviously, a great deal of it is not worth anything near \$58 a page. But there is no authority who can possibly determine its value to the country or to a given constituency and each member decides for himself with frequently bizarre results. It is possible for a senator to cover a couple of hundred pages with a speech plus exhibits and to argue persuasively that the cause he advocates justifies the expense.

Congress adjourned July 16, but bulky editions of the Record appear for the next week or so, full of revised remarks and synthetic speeches which are desired for mailing purposes.

QUEER TOPICS

It's a queer mélange that gets in. Recent exhibits include a topical preference for prohibition, farm relief, federal expenses, veterans' affairs and war debts. Congressmen brag about all their states or districts have had out of the federal government during their terms and how successful their party has been in cutting expenses.

There are many warm individual tributes to departed members a glowing description of the dedication of a new state capital and musings on such topics as "home, school and the church" and the "workings of a divine Providence."

Yet there is much solid information which will do the constituent no harm if he cares to memorize it.

SIDE GLANCES



"We'll take it for the rest of the summer, if this other family can go in with us."

EARLY DIAGNOSIS IMPORTANT
AID IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

By DR. MORRIS FISHBREIN
 (Editor, Journal of American Medical Association, and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine)

DIAGNOSIS at the earliest possible moment is important, not because much can be done for multiple sclerosis, but because relief might be given if some of the other diseases which resemble multiple sclerosis happen to be responsible for the symptoms.

Thus the presence of a definite infection in the central nervous system or tumor of the brain may be determined by scientific medical methods. Moreover, there are certain cases of hysteria in which there is no actual destruction of tissue present, in which mental treatment may be of value; yet these cases of hysteria may resemble multiple sclerosis.

Recently investigators in the Neurologic Institute in New York have been studying the effect of quinine on such cases. The use of the quinine was based on the chemical changes that take place in the tissue in this disease.

It is believed that in the course of multiple sclerosis a portion of the tissue of the nervous system, called myelin, is acted on and disintegrated by some toxic agent. When the myelin disintegrates, scarring occurs as a removal of the broken-down products by the white cells of the blood.

The New York investigators believe that the giving of quinine might act against such toxic agents. They therefore, administered it in 16 well ex-

amples to lift you out. Now, I am no representative myself of any big interests. I just represent myself. I have a few thousand dollars. I find at least three properties in Bohemia which I would and will lease once if I could arrive at, anyway I could treat the ore. But freight rates are prohibitive to Shelby or Salt Lake smelters. Now why not each of the cities, Eugene and Cottage Grove, apply to the owners of Cottage Grove district and from reports I have read and seen, the Blue river district will take care of a lot of the lack of sawdust production, too. But the people can stand around and bemoan their fate just because lumber has failed them, turn to something else, "You have it."

MAIL BAG

MUNICIPAL GOLD MILL?

COTTAGE GROVE, Ore.—(To the Editor).—I hear so much about the depression and everybody asking what is the government going to do? What is Wall Street going to do? Wait until Europe is stabilized? What are we going to do with our unemployed? Everybody looking for something away off to happen. But doing nothing with things right at hand that would, if rightly handled, take care of most of your problems.

Now, I have spent eight days in the Bohemia mining district and will say as people say, they have their road question settled now, that Bohemia if handled rightly will take the place promptly of a large part of the unemployed of Cottage Grove district and from reports I have read and seen, the Blue river district will take care of a lot of the lack of sawdust production, too. But the people can stand around and bemoan their fate just because lumber has failed them, turn to something else, "You have it."

But do not wait for someone from

I know that the road will be built and a customs plant where I can have my ore treated and I actually believe if you would undertake such a program within three years 500 to 500 would be steadily employed in Bohemia.

Now such a plant as I suggest will not cost so much. Nor will it handle the output but it will be a starter and others will be built with our aid. Just build such a plant and place an aid in the Denver, Spokane and Salt Lake papers, telling opportunities you actually have for leasers and your plant will not be large enough, for with a good road and a plant where the ore could be treated, Bohemia is ideal for leasers and small operators and there is no shortage of them. They are hunting opportunities. After the leaser comes the big operator who puts in the big money. You can do it. Forget your sawdust piles and 2x4's and produce a commodity which will always sell—"Gold."

A Wandering Engineer.
 A. S. DONNELLY.

OLD FANNIE

She feeds alone in the hillside pasture. All her friends have been taken away. She is old and her step is slow now. They say she's seen many a better day.

She is all that is left to remind me Of the times that once used to be. She alone of the old ponies and old pals By my dear old home I still see.

Fanny has known many days of plenty And many when there was little to eat. She's helped pull wagon, sled and buggy Over the roads with weary feet.

Like an old friend she welcomes me When I visit the old pasture once more. I'm sure she misses the old days When so often the saddle she wore.

Many children have rode on her back In the days that she knew years ago; And they often guided her in the garden Cultivating the corn, row upon row.

Yes, she alone is left to remind me Of the times that once used to be; She alone of the old ponies and old pals By my dear old home I still see.
 GYPSY LULU ROBIN.

WHERE DRIFTING?

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor).—

Have the people of Oregon lost sight of the fundamental essence of democracy and the republican form of government? If so, it is about time for us to reflect and study our present situation and to see where we are drifting. The present move by some citizens of our state to junk the University of Oregon, here at Eugene and to move the rudiments of it to Corvallis goes to show that these destructive advocates have not got the slightest conception and the true meaning that higher education has in compliance with advanced democracy. If they had they would not try to destroy the educational institutions of Oregon which our sturdy and true pioneers commenced sixty years ago. With hardish integrity and great energy they located and built the state university which the people of Eugene, by agreement of the state legislature, subscribed and donated the campus grounds and \$52,000 for the first building. From that beginning, the people of the state have spent many millions of dollars to the building of this great institution to its present educational service. But, beside the state expenditures, there have been more than two millions of dollars spent by private money, by both citizens of Eugene and of citizens elsewhere to the completion of this fine educational institution.

But in this state we have an organization known as the Zorn-Macpherson company, which is blinded by its capital stock which consists of greed, spite, malice and

many other commodities of that nature, which is for the purpose of destroying one community to the upbuilding of another; it is indeed a wonderful work they have undertaken. The sciences studied in the University is an absolute necessity to the moulding of good government. It is the intention of destroying the university at Eugene. On the other hand, their intelligence will not allow these false moves to destroy millions of dollars worth of property to satisfy the false cry of the Zorn-Macpherson company.

Many people today have been blinded by the present economic depression, which was brought on by an unprecedented orgy of wild speculation. Readjustments must be made and are being made of present activities which are a necessity, but

these cannot be made by destructive measures, envy and spite among communities which is against the progress of the state. We have a Oregon every natural resource mountains and lakes with lovely water on earth, valleys dotted with beautiful homes, yet with all these natural facilities, we are in a state of turmoil, envy and strife fostered and developed by the Macpherson advocates. Now, is not about time to see as to where we are drifting?

M. SVARTENG
 Despite the fact it has more than 3,000,000 acres of wooded land, about 8 per cent of the lumber by Great Britain is home grown.

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