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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication of all news and state-
ments 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.

MONDAY 2 P.M. TO 7 P.M.—"RSVP"

The citizens and taxpayers of Eugene are invited to "a party," on Monday, June 19, any time between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.—and you may take your pick of four places, the Roosevelt school, or Washington, Willard, or Lincoln. It should not be necessary to send "invitations" to a school election, but, by the sad record of former years, it really is.

May we repeat that every school election is important but this is one of the most important school elections in many years. We are to choose two new members of the school board who will help to fix all-important school policy for the difficult post-war years, as well as advise in the spending of the \$500,000 cash which we have voted for a new high school. We are also voting on an extra tax levy of 1.3 mill so that we can give each employee of our school system, not a real raise in pay but \$100 a year (\$10 a school month) to make up partly for the increased living costs of wartime.

For the 5-year term on the school board, made vacant by the retirement of Chairman Austin Dodds, we have two very good candidates—Hart Larsen, well known merchant; and Clay Barnes, real estate man, with a long record of business experience. For the 1-year vacancy created when Winsor Calkins went to the navy, Virgil Cameron will have no opposition because "Bazz" Williams' health does not permit him to run. Mr. Cameron is a high-type citizen, well known for his many years with the First National bank. Any registered voter may vote on the candidates.

On the supplementary tax levy, only taxpayers may vote. If the tax bill on your home comes in your name you may vote; or if it is in the name of man and wife jointly, both may vote; or if you own stock in a corporation which is a taxpayer you may vote.

But why this tax levy? Will it increase taxes? It will NOT increase your taxes above last year's level. Last year you paid 19 mills for schools, including the 7 mill for the high school building reserve. That left 12 mills of "normal" levy for schools, but out of that 12 mills approximately 2.4 mills was for debt and therefore beyond the 6 per cent limit. That left actually 9.6 mills for school operations. This year the normal 6 per cent increase on the 9.4 mills gives only 10.2 for operating purposes, not enough to provide this wartime lift for teachers and janitors. So you are asked to add 1.3 mills for this purpose. Actually it is not possible to say what the final millage will be till we know valuations. The school levy will not be over last year's 19 mills, might be as low as 18.5.

However figures are cold! Real reason this levy is needed is to do justice to loyal teachers and to try to hold together a good teaching staff. Many rural and suburban schools are paying nearly twice what we pay teachers. War industries pay even more. The city of Eugene has just voted its employees \$10 a month wartime pay. Schools are just as important as fire or police or streets. You are invited to take a few minutes Monday to do something for yourself, and your children or your neighbor's children. We have fine schools, good teachers, an obligation to keep them up.

OLD DR. WILLKIE PRESCRIBES

When Wendell Willkie announced his retirement from the field of presidential aspirants, after the Wisconsin debate, there were many who predicted that he would still be a powerful influence in the determination of a Republican candidate and program. The paradox of Willkie's "repudiation" by the party was that he emerged from it with unusual personal acclaim.

Now Mr. Willkie is prescribing for the GOP in a series of newspaper articles which have received wide publication. Once more he is trying to warn the GOP that it cannot coast back into power on any tide of reaction against the New Deal. In foreign and domestic affairs it must present something resembling a positive program.

Mr. Willkie warns the GOP against any blind or narrow entanglement with "the outmoded doctrine of states rights," against efforts to ignore or belittle racial issues which must be met, against efforts to scuttle necessary social and economic reforms. He proposes "not weakened federal government but the proper use of federal power," and he offers a phrase which the GOP might do well to adopt:

"Government of law and not by caprice!" There will be many in the GOP who will not take kindly to Mr. Willkie's "caster oil." There are still many in the Republican party who cannot forget or forgive Mr. Willkie as "a former Democrat." There is a very large and potent faction in the party which spends

most of its time yearning for "the old days" and "hating that man."

Nevertheless the things that Mr. Willkie has said are being said by a great many of the best informed and most intelligent conservatives. If we were to criticize the Willkie prescription we could say that it is rather too mild, not specific enough.

There is an issue which has grown out of 12 long years of the Roosevelt regime, and that issue is whether the essential of American democracy can be preserved.

It is not the specific acts of the New Deal which are dangerous so much as the way in which they have been administered. Mr. Roosevelt has surrounded himself with so-called "thinkers," many of whom either have no understanding of American principles or view them with a supercilious contempt. The greatest issue before the people today is: Where shall the boundaries on federal authority be put?

We do not think Mr. Willkie has stated the issue clearly or adequately when he lumps the whole problem under "state rights" and dismisses it lightly. The real issue is:

"What shall be left to local self-government whether it be by states, counties, cities or rural precincts?"

Admitting the logic and necessity of federal government strong enough to do the things which ARE FEDERAL, it is equally important to have STRONG LOCAL GOVERNMENT, close to the people, where common sense can govern.

This republic grew out of colonial town meetings and county assemblies and its strength is still in that vast "back country" which is not nearly so "backward" as some of Mr. Roosevelt's pet theorists think (many of whom have never seen a skyline outside of New York.)

The great sin of the New Deal is that in its effort to "uplift," it belittles and degrades the people and that in trade for a mess of relief we are likely to lose our birthright. Mr. Willkie has failed to state the case, although he comes close with "government of law and not by caprice." Nobody has yet found the right word, but it will come. A Lane county farmer came very close the other day:

"Those fellows down in Washington have forgotten that they work for us."

"HAP ARNOLD AND THE 'B-29'"

Not since Pearl Harbor has any piece of "good news" given the people as much lift as the word that the new giant "B-29's" have begun to work out on Japan's main centers of war industry. It may be some time before the whole story can be told. We lost not more than four of the big craft, but the bombs were delivered to the targets, Japan's big iron and steel plants. Indications are that damage was very heavy. And this raid is only a sample of what will come.

Possibly we should not expect too much. Early reports indicate the B-29's were based in China. That would signify much progress in building up of our preparation on the Chinese mainland. But it is still a very slow and difficult job to supply major operations in China, and it may not be possible for some time to achieve a bombing schedule to Japan comparable with that in Germany. However, taken with our smash into the Marianas only 1,500 miles from Tokyo, the B-29 performance warrants some hope that the war in the Pacific may be brought to conclusion much earlier than expected.

What we find in this news is justification of the leadership which General H. H. Arnold has provided in the development of air force.

Way back yonder when Seversky and some of the "smart boys" were yelling about "inferiority of American ships" (and scaring their folks and the rest of us) General Arnold invited one of the critics to Washington, turned him loose in a big room where the performance record of every military aircraft of every nation in the world has been plotted — without identifying marks. Said the General:

"There you are! Now you study these records and pick out the best all-round bomber and the best all-round pursuit ship that's flying today."

"It will take a lot of study."

"Take a lot of study then. Don't you think you owe it to the public to know what you are talking about?"

When the critic announced he was ready to make his choice, he said:

"Okay, General, this is my pick in bombers. 'Fine! That's the Flying Fortress!'"

"Well, I like this pursuit ship."

"Swell, you've got your finger on the P-38!"

The B-29, almost half a city block from wing-tip to wing-tip, capable of carrying half a box car load of bombs across great oceans, is spectacular, but it is by no means the largest possible ship. It is simply the latest and completely logical offshoot of the extremely practical and well tested "Fortress family."

What is equally important, it can be produced in quantity. It will not win the war alone, or overnight, but it brings us much closer to the end.

People who have sons in Air Force can feel a bit safer because it is directed by an extremely practical flying man. They speak of the B-29 as "Hap's baby" or "Hap's dream." He dreams very practical dreams. Gen. Tojo could explain.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL BAG

VICTORIOUS DEFEAT
A soldier sat on the frozen heights, homesick, wounded and weak. Binding his feet in bloody rags while tears trickled down his cheek; The commander took off his own warm cloak and wrapped it 'round the lad. And shared potatoes baked in the fire—'twas all the food they had. At Trenton the boy fought valiantly, there for liberty he died. That, forgetting tears, we in later years carelessly cast aside.

The prison gates swing open wide, the war was over and done, And haggard skeletons of men crept into the blinding sun; They scrambled and fought for the grains of corn where cattle-droppings lay. And those too tired to travel on perished along the way. They paid with their lives that their fellow-men from bondage might be freed, Yet that freed man stands bound in iron bands of apathy and greed.

Cavalry dashed up San Juan hill in a leaden hail of death, Blenching not at the "water cure" nor the tropics' fevered breath; The many who harkened to Cuba's call for release from torture's pain, Gallantly battled on land and sea to crush the might of Spain. But the isles they won were ruled and spoiled by politics' every plan, Till that land became, to our lasting shame, the plaything of Japan.

A doughboy stood in a muddy trench when dawn was near at hand, Peering into the deadly fog that lay over No Man's land; "They don't know we're fighting a war at home," this weary soldier sighed, But at the test, "They shall not pass!" he grimly muttered, and died. The torch he handed to us to keep we listlessly dropped, forgot, And the sons of men are facing again the foe we conquered not.

A soldier crawls on the frozen heights of cold Cassino's reach, Another digs in bloody sands of Anzio's shell-swept beach; They look in bewilderment toward the west, in bitterness they cry, "For personal gain are those at home willing to let us die?" On oceans wide and in jungles deep youth again for freedom strives—

When this war is through shall we squander, too, their sacrificed young lives? —Ethel Stratford Gabrio.

SAILOR'S DAY DREAMS
(Editor's note: The following verse was written by a Eugene navy man, now stationed in Maryland.)

OREGON
Land of great mountains, green forests, clear sky,
Land where I want to stay till I die,
Oregon my Oregon land I call home,
Oh God, please take me there never more to roam.
Land of the blue lakes and clear rushing streams,
Land that I see every night in my dreams,
And that beautiful little city, Eu-

gene is the name,
The place from where I proudly say that I came.

Yes, my mind is in Oregon, though my person is here, My mind is in Oregon on ducks and on deer, And the mere thought of fishing fills my heart with joy, Of the beautiful McKenzie where I fished as a boy.

Yes, this war that we're fighting is a cruel one 'tis true, Because it is taking me from my Oregon and you, Even though I fall a victim in this never ending war, My thoughts will be on Oregon though I sleep forever more.

But when it is over and we have won the victory, If anyone asks, you'll know where to find me, I'll be up the McKenzie with a rod in my hand, In the best state in the union, fair-est in the land.

UP THE MCKENZIE
Up the McKenzie on a bright sunny day,
Up the McKenzie in the merry month of May,
Fishing the river of the fisherman's dream,
Up the McKenzie I want to be, Back from the war, home from the sea.

THOUGHTS OF A SERVICEMAN
Though I am in the service, and far away from home,
My thoughts are always in Oregon, it's there I long to roam.
Roam through the green forests and by the western sea,
Yes, it's back home in Oregon that's where I want to be.

MY THOUGHTS
When in despondency's darkest depth,
And my soul into its shell hath crept,
There's only one thing to do that's left,
I think of home.

When the world seems out of joint,
And for what we're fighting, with-out point,
When my head with oil they anoint,
I think of home.

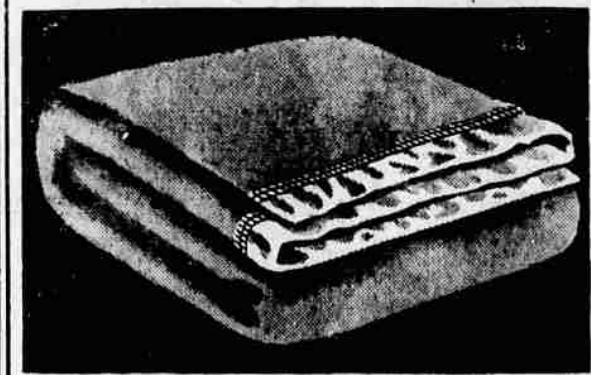
Yes it's of home that I most think,
When my morale does slowly sink,
And when I'm on the very brink,
I think of home.

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POSTPONE POOL?

EUGENE (To the Editor:) I don't know how others feel, but I am completely "fed up" on the perpetual howls of certain people for a swimming pool.

For heaven's sake, aren't those who have given their precious all to this "great crusade" for human freedom, entitled to, at least, silence on the part of those who think only in terms of selfish desires, personal pleasure, and comfort?

Many Americans are pretty badly spoiled. They have always been able to get everything they wanted if they just bawled loudly enough and kept it up long enough. But if there ever was a time to forget self and think of the men fighting this desperate war for liberation, it is now!

I have no patience with the thought expressed in the quoted letter from "A Mother," upon which The Register-Guard based its editorial, "Our Swimming Pool Problem," June 9. And I wish to draw attention to an apparent inconsistency in the editorial itself. You summarized as follows:

1. In the swimming pool fund, the city of Eugene has accumulated approximately \$25,000.00 from the 1 mill special levy of 1940-41.

2. This \$25,000.00 is NOT ENOUGH to build an adequate pool with all the sanitary facilities which are absolutely essential.

Then you say, "Of course, if there had been prompt action before we got into the war, the pool could have been built before materials and labor became so hard to get."

As I understand it, the money for this pool did not begin to accumulate until 1941. That was the year we entered the war. Can you explain how "prompt action" could have produced the money for a swimming pool before the war when, after four years, the fund has barely reached the

amount voted by the people? And even that, according to your own statement, is not enough without free labor.

A swimming pool is very nice, and it is something Eugene may plan for and possess, some day. But it is more a luxury than a need, and WPB has no business allocating essential war materials for the construction for such a pool, and The Register-Guard is in a position to discourage any effort to secure such material until this war is fought through to victory.

We are engaged in the 5th War Bond drive. The slogan is "More than Before." It is too bad that \$25,000.00 lying in the bank can't be used to purchase war bonds.
Sincerely,
F. Ina-Burgess.
Belgium is the most densely populated country in Europe, with a population of 710 to the square mile.



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