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The Register-Guard's policy is to be complete and impartial in its news coverage, to be fair and to be of service to the community. It is the policy of the Register-Guard to be fair and to be of service to the community. It is the policy of the Register-Guard to be fair and to be of service to the community.

OUR WEST, AS OTHERS SEE IT

The entire issue of Fortune magazine for February is devoted to The West, the Pacific Coast states. It is well worth reading by everybody who seeks his bread and butter and the other good things of life in this region. It is illustrated gorgeously, but the reader will do well to study the print as well as the pictures. Fortune's report will not please those who think merely of "Grand Publicity," whenever the West or any part of it gets "national mention."

But it is good to "see ourselves as others see us," and the Fortune review has in it much to cut short the rhapsodies of the "boomsters" who speak so glibly of "the West's coming of age" and fail to see that much of the West's recent development is only "shot and shell prosperity."

The Fortune reporters do not deny that the West has a great future. They devote whole chapters to the great advances which are still possible in our agriculture, in the use of our forest resources (if they are not wasted), in the making and marketing which is industry. They compare our "Dwindling Oil" with "Mounting Power" (electricity). They devote a whole spectacular section to "The Grandeur That is Home."

But when they speak of "Steel in the West" and the future of the big mills which have been erected on this coast for war needs, they throw up a lot of question marks. Same as to the future of aluminum and many other light metals. They do not see the Orient as a gold mine for West Coast trade, unless a lot of things can be made to happen.

Under the heading "Predated Disaster—Unless!" the editors of Fortune mention the post-war problems of Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego and the thousands of workers to be "stabilized" if the post-war joyride is not to become "a detour through purgatory." We quote:

"The people of the West are aware of the dark days ahead even if they are not fully aware of their meaning. The survey of management opinion shows that two thirds of the business executives queried expect substantial unemployment in their communities after the war in spite of the fact that nearly all expect to offer more jobs than before the war. 'But the West is suffering more than a little from the intellectual and spiritual leadership that it has always vested in its chambers of commerce. A western chamber views honest pessimism, much as a Boston jurist views legitimate optimism—as something to be suppressed if possible, otherwise ignored. Plans are being made but they suffer because grave and adult appraisal of the future is too often called defeatism.'"

Space does not permit us to present more than the outlines of the Fortune study. It is not at all unfriendly but it is critical, and we welcome it because we think some candid criticism is badly needed at this point in the "making of the West."

In this community we pride ourselves that we have gone perhaps a little farther than most in making some preparations for the years ahead. Actually we have not done very much yet. The Fortune studies could very easily be the basis for a series of discussions in our Chamber "forum" or under the auspices of the Central Lane council.

It is not "selling the West short" to examine the opinions of these "wise men from the east."

AS BUREAUCRATS FUNCTION

Bureaucracy is a sprawling thing of involvements and inconsistencies. And though written about its real or fancied evils, it's many thousand flaming words have been a rather hard thing to pin down for an attack.

However, we came upon a postcard the other day which, in three lines, seemed to distill and illustrate the essential annoyance against which so much indignation has been directed.

A friend of ours had written to the Deputy Solid Fuels Administrator for War on a matter that he considered somewhat important. In reply he received this postcard. It bore a date, a few mysterious serial numbers, the deputy administrator's facsimile signature, and this message:

"This will acknowledge receipt of your (telegram letter memorandum)—the first and last choices were crossed out—dated . . . your reference . . . which will receive prompt attention."

The blanks were filled in, and "prompt" had been crossed out and "appropriate" substituted. That was all.

Now this, we submit, is bureaucracy in a nutshell. Rudeness masquerading as efficiency; arrogance triumphing over the long-forgotten fact that government bureau employees are public servants, too.

Any congressman would of course be committing political suicide if he even once replied to a constituent on a printed form. But congressmen get their jobs through the

people's sufferance, and keep them by being not only as wise but also as considerate as they can.

The bureaucrat also pays the grocer with the taxpayers' money. But he cannot find time to give his own or his assistants' personal attention to the taxpayers' troubles.

We don't know what can be done to correct bureaucratic bad manners. We offer no solution. But we do offer one piece of advice—don't for heaven's sake, write your favorite bureaucrat about it.

ARMING THE FRENCH

Gen. Brehon B. Somervell has sent the encouraging word from Paris that there is not at present any supply shortage on the Western Front. But this is not a signal to relax efforts to improve our manpower supply and utilization, or to think that supply problems are definitely licked.

They cannot approach solution until we have made good our commitment to equip and supply a large force of French troops. In the last war the bulk of American munitions and much of our equipment was provided by the French. Now the procedure must be reversed in the same interest of mutual help.

The rapid equipment of a French army will relieve the American load in the west, and surely make the war shorter and less costly. The French are ready and impatiently willing to fight. Their part in Germany's defeat is an obligation of honor and national pride. By every consideration of sympathy and realism, we should help them meet that obligation.

Statistics show the average person uses eight matches per day. Lighting what?

Germans probably think the Russians are world's most offensive people.

Trying to buy bootleg liquor is dangerous, says an Illinois judge. Mainly because you might succeed!

It's easy to get sick of taking medicine that you take because you're sick.

First the world was thought to be flat—then it was discovered to be round. But it's still a little crooked in spots.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON
Register-Guard Washington Correspondent

PROS AND CONS ON LABOR DRAFT

By PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 5.—Anyone who tries to understand the manpower muddle in which the United States now finds itself is asking for an acute headache. Yet some effort to comprehend this mess is necessary if there is to be any appreciation of the need or lack of need for National Service legislation as embodied in the May-Bailey bill now before Congress, authorizing the drafting for war work of all non-essential industry employees from 18 to 45.

You begin with the question of why more manpower is now needed. What in the world have we been doing for the last three years if not stocking the arsenals of Democracy?

The most facile answer given is that the war didn't really begin until the summer of 1944! What's that again, please? That's it—until the invasion of France the number of ground troops actually within shooting range of the enemy was not large. The number of divisions in the African and Italian campaigns was small and the number of divisions that got a shot at the Japs from Guadalcanal to Leyte was smaller. This is not said to belittle the tough fighting at places like Anzio or Tarawa, but merely to emphasize the fact that with American armies now at the German border and still not arrayed against the main Japanese armies on the Chinese mainland or the Japanese homeland, the war has in one sense only half-begun.

Voluntary Methods Failed
If you accept this principle of the need for more war production you are ready for the next step, which is to see what can be done to get the power for this extra production is to be obtained.

Glib assurances from spokesmen for employers and labor organizations to the effect that compulsory war labor legislation isn't necessary because the desired results can be obtained voluntarily are met with the objection that voluntary methods of labor recruiting have been in effect for three years and haven't done the job.

The position of employers and labor leaders backing National Service legislation is explained by its backers as prompted by self-interest. Employers think drafted labor would not be efficient labor and furthermore employers want no more government dictation on conditions of employment than they have now. Unions do not want National Service legislation because they feel it imposes conditions of slavery on workers, and further because they fear loss of privileges like seniority rights and maintenance of union membership acquired in present employment.

The succession of War Manpower Commission orders on the 48-hour week, critical area designations, controlled referrals, certificates of availability and job freezes has, it is claimed, about run its course. Each is labeled as a bluff which was good as long as it worked. But ways have been found to evade them all. Something is needed with teeth in it, to really enforce work-or-fight edicts.

This stirs up a veritable hornet's nest. All-out advocates of compulsory National Service on the home front as well as on the war front want to make the work-or-fight bill an anti-strike law that would make the Smith-Connally Act look like a mere slap on the wrist and curb much union activity.

End of Discrimination Urged
Countering this move, liberals advocate compulsory fair employment practices with an end to discriminations against hiring of Negro workers in all industries and all areas. No compromise being possible on these two disputes, they tend to cancel each other out.

But the whole question of proper utilization of what labor there is comes into the picture. Disclosures by Senator Mead's committee investigators, reporting waste of labor in Negro yards, and revelations of military black market scandals in France and high AWOL absenteeism in the Army in Europe do not contribute support for the cause of National Service legislation.

National Service legislation cannot possibly be expected to cure all these evils and conflicts. To expect it to be a panacea for all the manpower problems is futile. Every situation will still have to be dealt with locally. But a work-or-fight law is advocated because it will give the government control over workmen as individuals, putting them where they are needed when they are needed.

OUR CITIZENS IN SERVICE



THREE sons of Mr. and Mrs. Kinsey L. Burch of Blachley are shown above. They are: top, Bill A. Burch, seaman 2-c, who joined the navy in November, 1943, taking boot training at Farragut, Idaho, and later being stationed at Oceanside, Calif.; left, below, Pvt. Royce C. Burch, who entered army service in August, 1942, and went overseas last March, now in the European theater; right, Fred M. Burch, seaman 2-c, U. S. coast guard, entered the service in August, 1943, and has been stationed in Alaska since November of that year.

SOUVENIRS SENT

From Australia T-4 Kendall V. Kimball, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Kimball, Trent, has been able to send home a variety of items. Native hewn articles of iron, wood, including spears, boomerangs, a wife beater, clubs and native woven baskets, as well as a number of sea shells picked up on the Australian coast are included in the collection. Recently helping to take provisions he made a trip to some of the missions of the Aborigines. Sergeant Kimball was inducted into the service in February, 1943, and sent overseas in July of that year.

COMES FROM DESTROYER

Wayne A. Winfrey, gunner's mate 2-c, spent 30 days leave at home after 13 months aboard a destroyer in the South Pacific. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Winfrey, 1271 C street, Springfield, he has returned to San Diego for three months training at the advanced electric hydraulics and gunnery school. Winfrey's record in the navy, which led to participation in many major engagements with the enemy, began after he was graduated from Lowell high school, and enlisted in August, 1942. After boot training in San Diego, he was sent to Great Lakes, Ill., for a course in gunnery. He returned to San Diego for his advanced gunner's mate study, and training in electric hydraulics. In April, 1943, he was sent to San Francisco for assignment to a destroyer.

DUNCAN SHARES HONOR

Cpl. Gordon G. Duncan, of Eugene, as a member of a depot repair squadron of an air depot group of the 15th air force service command in Italy, shares with his fellow enlisted men and officers the meritorious service unit plaque. Each man is entitled to wear a meritorious service wreath on his right sleeve. The group was commended for "the efficient manner in which they assisted in the installation of the engineering shops with a minimum of materials and building facilities, and for their persistent efforts in the construction of housing for all personnel from bombed-out buildings."

CADET ON FURLOUGH

Air Cadet Ronald E. Hathaway, son of Mrs. Lois Hathaway, Cottage Grove, was home on a 14-day furlough from Pecos, Tex.,

This Week Gave Capital Big Headache, Says Othman

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN
United Press Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON — (AP) — This, friends, was one of those weeks in your national capital. The place ran out of headache powders, for reasons hereinafter to become apparent, and it is with a shaky hand that I record the facts:

A zebra in the zoo got loose and trotted down diplomatic row, giving certain guys in spats the meemies. Rep. F. Edward Hebert, pronounced a bear, called Secretary of Interior Ickes a chameleon. The Chicago tax assessor forwarded Honest Harold an apology for claiming that he fudged \$8,000 on his real estate returns.

Mrs. Roosevelt announced that the White House never ordered;

recently. He has qualified as a navigator, but will be on duty as an incoming non-commissioned officer until an opening occurs in pre-flight school.

LANE MEN IN ITALY

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, Italy—Cpl. Robert L. Gopline, 257 Washington street, and Lt. Thomas G. Wright, Jr., route 1, Harrisburg, are members of the 89th tank destroyer battalion, recently awarded the Croix de Guerre avec Etoile de Vermeil in recognition of support given French troops fighting on the Italian front. Gopline is an assistant driver of an M-10 tank destroyer, and Wright is a platoon leader.

SEAMAN VISITS

Garland Robert Angleton, seaman 2-c, recently was home on five-day leave, visiting his wife and family on route 5. He had just completed his boot camp training at Farragut, Idaho, and returned there when his leave expired, his wife and son accompanying him as far as Portland.

SWAFFORD ON LEAVE

William Lee Swafford, pharmacist's mate 2-c, who has been convalescing at the U. S. naval hospital at San Diego following duty overseas in the naval medical corps, is spending a 30-day leave at his home. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Swafford of route 5, Eugene. He entered the navy in October, 1942, and has been in the south Pacific for more

TWO RECEIVE MEDALS

From the Philippines comes the news that PFC George D. Bloomquist of Walton and Pvt. Thomas W. O'Connell of Oakridge, infantrymen, have been awarded the Philippine Liberation medal.

Bloomquist entered the army in February, 1943, and has been overseas for over a year. The son of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Bloomquist, he was formerly employed by George Forcia, Walton.

LT. BLAIS TO REST

First Lt. Lewis D. Blais, son of Mrs. B. V. Blais, 2015 Friendly street, Eugene, recently passed through an air service command station in England en route to a well-earned rest after 30 missions as a pilot on a B-24 Liberator.

Before his return to the states, Blais was awarded the air medal with four oak leaf clusters.

TRAINING NEARS END

Second Lt. Gordon A. Sprecher, 19, son of Eugene, soon will complete an intensive course in combat flying at the Alexandria, La., army air field, and in the near future he will go overseas to a combat area. He is a member of a Flying Fortress crew.

Lieutenant Sprecher attended Eugene high school. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar D. Sprecher of College Crest, route 3, Eugene.

INSULATION stops heat loss and reduces fuel bills.—Twin Oaks, 659 High.

Army Figures Out Figures Of WAC

The army's quartermaster corps made a survey recently and came up with some neat figures about the average WAC—she's five feet, four inches tall, weighs 128 pounds and has a waist measurement of 28 1/2 inches.

That doesn't exactly make her eligible for a Hollywood contract, but it does serve as a basis for supplying clothing distribution depots to equip the army's thousands of women soldiers all over the world with uniform replacements.

A size 14 dress fit the average WAC, the survey shows; her foot is a 6-B and her glove a size 7.

Other facts about the women were uncovered in a study conducted by the 1st air force among the more than 1000 women serving with that unit from Maine to Florida. They find the WAC was the best educated woman in America. She has had at least a high school education and some specialist training to begin with and in the army she has improved upon her original skills, learned new ones or new applications of her old skill.

Twenty-one per cent of this group of WACs were college educated. Seven women in eight were employed at the time of their enlistment in the WAC, and so brought a definite skill into the army.

The women themselves were questioned about their post-war plans. Marriage and home-making was the choice of the majority, but some wanted their own businesses and some wanted to follow the same line of work they have been doing in the army.

One woman in seven was married at the time she joined the service, and one in 14 has been married since her enlistment in the women's army corps.

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 6.—(AP)—The bill which allows a testator to deposit his will with a county clerk for safekeeping was signed into law by Gov. Earl Snell Monday.

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