

Analysis of Present Japanese "Mentality"

From our friend Charles W. Coit comes a paper prepared by Steve Masuyama on "The Present Japanese Mentality." Mr. Masuyama is well known on the University of Oregon campus and his comments on present Japanese state of mind should, therefore, be especially interesting. He tells a little story to make his point.

"In Japan, many of the streets are narrow and do not have sidewalks. Prior to the surrender, 'keep to the left' was the rule for pedestrians but now the rule is 'walkers to the right and vehicles to the left.' Let's go walking on the right, conforming to the new rule. You cannot go smoothly because so many people are walking on the left. Well, let's go over to the left—and again you will find that many people are coming down the right side, looking at you as if to say 'don't you know the rules?' Except for the vehicles, it is easiest to walk along the middle of the street."

Mr. Masuyama thinks this traffic behavior illustrates pretty clearly the Japanese attitude toward all of the great social and political changes which are being attempted in Japan:

Many people are quite willing to do their best to accept change. Many simply cannot get used to change and go on in the old way either from stubbornness or force of habit. Others are opportunists "who sometimes keep to the right and at other times to the left."

Just as the people have little confidence in their traffic police, they lack confidence in their other leaders.

Physical and spacial limitations have much to do with the behavior with the Japanese people.

Well, that amounts to saying that the Japanese are almost as confused by this cockeyed world as we are. If misery loves company, we should welcome them as brothers although we should recognize that they have many difficulties which we do not have to face. They do not have our strong traditions of freedom. Mr. Masuyama speaks of this in mentioning the difficulty which the Japanese are having in distinguishing between dangerous Communists and those who are merely trying to express opinion in the democratic way:

"It is a regrettable fact that frank criticism is now gradually decaying even among the progressive, intelligent people. Even a constructive pacifist, if he or she talks explicitly against war, is most likely to be labelled simply as a Communist. The Japanese people are a defeated nation and, therefore, they are (especially the women) just tired of war."

He says the Japanese people are puzzled by the haggling among the conquerors but he thinks that they are gradually forming their own independent standards of judgment. He believes that the signing of the treaty of peace will help to restore self-confidence in Japan and that the nation will slowly find its way back to a position of usefulness in the world's affairs. If we understand his meaning, it is that Japan will never be the Japan of old; neither will it be a Japan rebuilt in the image of our own godlike example. It will be some kind of compromise between realism and dreams.

What About "Fluoridated" Water Supply

To date the injection of fluorine into Eugene's water supply is entirely in experimental stages. No decision has been reached by the Eugene Water Board as to whether this treatment of water supply should be adopted as a regular thing. This preliminary statement is made for the benefit of people who may have been alarmed by the report that Portland's health officer, Dr. Thomas L. Meador, has turned against the use of fluorine. Dr. Meador came back from a meeting of public health doctors in San Francisco with this report, as set forth in The Oregonian:

"The medical group felt that further knowledge of possible dangerous effects should be gained before action is taken to fluoridate the water."

Some years ago medical and dental reports from cities in the Southwest indicated that the injection of fluorine in the water supply could prevent or check tooth decay. There is now voluminous literature on the subject and fluoridation has been approved by doctors and dentists in many states, including the Oregon State Dental Association and the Oregon State Board of Health. At the San Francisco meeting doubts seem to have been raised for the first time by reports of "disastrous results"

at Colorado Springs and at some points in Texas and Idaho where the beneficial effects on the teeth have been offset by harmful effects on others parts of the body.

Mr. Meador raises the question as to whether fluoridation is "a mere fad" and urges his people to go slow. Eugene has been "going slow." The Water Board's veteran Ford Northrop says:

"So far we have merely run a few tests to see if fluorine could be added to our filter plant intake and without buying costly special equipment. In a general way, we know that fluoridation would cost about 20c per capita per year, which with 50,000 users would be about \$10,000 a year or upwards. We have felt that if the program were adopted here there should be some way of testing and measuring the results. There has been and will be no hasty action."

That's that. Our water supply is good. It would be a fine thing if it could be treated to foolproof the teeth of our children. It might be a good idea to look thoroughly into the adverse reports from Colorado and Texas and to review the whole record of fluoridation. This is the age of "magic drugs" but even the best of them have to be carefully administered. Common sense is still a pretty healthful prescription.

"To See Ourselves As Others See Us"

On Tuesday evening, November 13, between 6 and 6:45 PST, over the ABC Network, with which Station KUGN is affiliated, there will be an opportunity to hear Eugene's school problems discussed on the famous program which is known as "America's Town Meeting." The debaters will be Willard Goslin, whose dismissal as superintendent of schools at Pasadena last spring spotlighted the rumpus in education, and Dr. Lewis Haney, who is billed as a professor of economics at New York University who conducts a newspaper column as a sideline. The questions will be:

"Is there too much liberalism or progressivism in today's teaching?" "What should the schools do about controversial issues?" "Is it true that some textbooks in current use contain dubious or misleading philosophies?" "How serious is the problem of inadequate school buildings and equipment?" "Do we spend enough money for our public schools?" "How do we get enough good teachers for our schools?"

Such is fame! Eugene is listed along with Palo Alto, Pasadena, Denver, Port Washington, N. Y., Englewood, N. J., among the communities to be discussed

(or mentioned in the course of argument). As we pointed out the other day that since McCall's and Saturday Review discovered the public schools, all the best maps are doing it. The Nation has included us in the list of "fever spots" (a considerable exaggeration).

Twon't do any great harm. Actually we have not had any of the violent conflicts which have occurred in other cities. The arguments here have been on a relatively high plane. The Zoll crowd hasn't made any real headway and we have no Hearst papers. There has been difference of opinion here as to "progressive" and "old fashioned" methods, as to what ought to be taught and how to teach it, and we can be pretty proud of the fact that the arguments have stuck to the real issues and not degenerated into name calling. But it will be interesting to learn how we look at a distance of 3000 miles, to "see ourselves as others see us."

Nevertheless we can't help thinking of the ancient fable of the little dog Tray. If you don't remember it, ask, or look it up.

Paul W. Harvey, Jr.

Warden Puts Cons to Work

SALEM—(AP)—Warden Virgil O'Malley has his way, all the convicts at the Oregon state prison will be working before long.

Of the 1500 prisoners, between 300 and 400 are idle because there's nothing for them to do.

O'Malley, who took over his job only seven weeks ago, wants to put in some new industries at the prison. But he'll have to buck strong opposition by employers and labor unions.

The prison could make soap and furniture for all state institutions. It could use carpentry and machine shops.

"I expect to see every convict in here working when we get the place reorganized," O'Malley said.

"They're Going to Work."

We asked him what he'd do about those convicts who flatly refuse to work.

"Don't worry, they are going to work," he said.

O'Malley has put the convicts under closer supervision. Guards are required to be more vigilant. He got the guards a pay increase, so their starting pay is \$250 a month for a 40-hour week. That's \$40 more than it used to be.

"We have to pay our guards better," he said, "to remove any temptation they might have to accept money from prisoners."

He increased the guards at the prison annex, where 160 trustees run the prison farm. Egg production immediately was boosted by 20 dozen a day.

"You can't tell me the hens started laying more eggs just because more guards were around. What happened was that the convicts had to quit selling eggs to the neighbors," O'Malley said.

The meals are better. Only four meals are served a day, while the number was 23 meals a day before O'Malley came here.

In a couple of months, a new 400-cell block will be finished. It will be for prisoners who require close supervision, with lots of reinforced concrete and steel.

Construction will begin next spring on two more cell blocks, designed for prisoners who require little supervision.

When those three buildings are in use, segregation of prisoners will be easy.

Dividing Prisoners

O'Malley is dividing the prisoners into five categories, according to how much guarding they require.

About five per cent of them will be called maximum custody prisoners, requiring 24-hour supervision. These are the men who are continually trying to escape.

About 50 per cent will be put in the close custody class. They will work inside the walls under supervision.

The other three groups each will have 15 per cent of the convicts. They are those who work outside with a guard; those who work alone outside with checking every half hour; and those who are checked only a couple of times a day.

Prisoners are put into these categories by the prison classification committee.

The prison sociologist, John R. Akin, talks to the men to find out their attitude toward the prison management. This attitude has a lot to do with whether a man can be trusted.

"Not Mollified"

The two chaplains deal with the prisoners' family problems.

"We can't mollify the prisoners," Akin said. "We make it rough enough so a man won't want to come back. But the prison also has to be a place where a man can say he learned his lesson by rehabilitation."

"One thing the convict loses when he enters prison is his self-esteem. He becomes distrustful of anyone in authority. The prison's job is to change that pattern. Work, to inspire confidence, is the best way to change it."

In the distant future, all convicts probably will be paid for their work, with the money sent home to their families. This, Akin says, will be a big help to convicts in regaining their confidence.

SO THEY SAY—

We must band together to save this heritage (the barroom ballad) for our children—our male children. I shudder when I think of the goody-goody songs which are all that will be left for the next generation if the present trend continues.—Tolchard Evans, British music composer.

Some Red troops (in Korea) have shown such a desire for freedom that they have swam across rivers just to give themselves up. That was mighty cold at this time of year.—Lt.-Gen. William M. Hoge, C. O., U. S. 9th Corps.

Good words in the Soviet Constitution mean less than nothing. The Soviet citizens live in fear. Their society is a jungle through which the naked power of the government prowls like a beast of prey, making all men afraid.—President Truman.

It is not a question of guns or butter. We are going to have guns and butter—except that we must be content with less butter.—Charles E. Wilson, defense mobilizer.

Ned Garver is my team and the only swap I'd make is my team for some other team.—Bill Veeck, owner of St. Louis Browns baseball team.

The Shepherd

INDECISION

"He that doubteth is damned." Rom. 14:23
Said Bobby Jones, the golfing great... "Just miss 'em quick," don't hesitate... If you step up and put your ball... In to the cup 'twill likely fall... Than if you hem and haw and sight... Or get all tense or shake with fright... Do something! Move! Taken action, Man!... Accomplish quickly all you can... For more is lost through indecision... Than bad approach or false precision.
JULIEN C. HYER



In The Editor's Mailbag

DRAIN PROTEST

DRAIN—(To the Editor)—Your editorial in the Register Guard November 2nd, "By-passed Cities Get More Business" can hardly go unchallenged.

Your comparison of the Drain-Yoncalla by-pass with that of Auburn, Calif., is in itself a by-pass of facts. Auburn is primarily a residential area established by people from Sacramento who wished to get away from traffic, while Drain and Yoncalla are industrial centers that in the last five years have attracted a good tourist business. Restaurants, Motels, and Service Stations have been established to supply a demand created by this tourist traffic.

Four hundred thousand dollars per year is a conservative estimate of the tourist business transacted in Drain, and that is a lot of money, representing just about all the profit there is in it for us. You must bear in mind that it is the top twenty five per cent of one's business that brings in profit.

The loss of business in Drain would run as high as 90% in some instances, should the Hi-Way be moved to Scotts Valley, and that is no ILLUSION!

Loans for prospective home builders, and those now in business are being denied already, due to the contemplated Hi-way change. This will also result in lowering property values.

We are aware that those who drive through town without stopping do not spend any money with us that trip, your insinuation to the contrary not withstanding; we have also found out that people walking by our place without stopping spend no money that trip. We are aware also that those driving 100 miles or less make few wayside stops, and that they are about all the traffic, other than local, that we can look forward to if we lose the Hi-way.

If the tourist business is so unimportant to any city, why are the editors of the larger cities writing so many editorials in support of by-passing the smaller cities; why do they, through subterfuge and misstatements, try so hard to make us believe that it won't hurt our business? If the tourist business that we have been enjoying is of no value and as you say, merely cluttering up the streets, then what does Eugene want with it?

Your statement that tourists will consistently drive two miles out of their way to find a certain Motel that they have never heard of, displays a lack of human understanding on your part. Very few tourists stop where they have stopped before as they usually take a new route.

If you are sincere in your statement that tourist traffic is a nuisance and has no commercial value, then why not try to promote a worthwhile change in No. 99 that would be more comparable to the Drain by-pass and would relieve Eugene of their undesirable tourist traffic, such as a direct route south from Monroe, through Lorane to Drain by way of the Rock Creek survey. The added business that would bring to Drain would be more than welcome. We will be honest about it. Isn't that the route proposed a few years ago that you opposed so

strenuously? Just an indication of what will be lost to the farmers in Scotts Valley if the Hi-way is changed as now planned: Out of a large orchard that will be removed, one walnut tree last year bore eighteen hundred dollars worth of walnuts; 800 acres of valuable farm lands will be removed from production and tax rolls; homes that represent several generations of earnest endeavor will be destroyed, yet we spend millions reclaiming arid lands.

The "Old Roman Road" from Rome to Paris, built hundreds of years ago, has withstood many wars and consequent hard usage without being moved. Why must our highways be moved? Is it sound thinking on our part to subscribe to such waste, or should we insist on an intelligent, permanent highway program that will stay "PUT," encourage free enterprise, and the erection of permanent business establishments that will be a credit to our resourcefulness?

Respectfully
H. L. GOODMAN

QUESTIONS

DEXTER—(To the Editor)—This was brought to mind by the fact that the Lowell Garden Club is planning to landscape the grade school grounds and is soliciting funds for that purpose.

I am wondering whether we are bringing children up properly, to build them lovely schools and landscapes them or rather pay to have experts do so. Doesn't it seem true that people will take better care of something they have worked to acquire and that they will feel more pride and joy in it? Children are little people. Sometimes we should place ourselves in their shoes. If we were forced to spend most of our waking hours

in a building someone had built and forced us into we might deface and litter it, too.

My point is this: If the youngsters were to help landscape under the supervision of the garden club and with some parents perhaps to help, too, I believe they would profit by it a lot more. Oh, the grounds might not be the most beautiful in the state and the local adults probably would never point them out with great pride in their beauty, but the students would. They would say "I planted that lilac bush and look at 'er bloom!" "A much more important, lasting and valuable result, wouldn't you say?"

It seems to me the same principle might apply to building. Some of the work could be done by grade school children, the yard cleaning at least, and perhaps much of the simpler work.

A little understanding of the work involved in building a piece of property might be of great advantage to children and a great deterrent to vandalism. I believe America was built on hard work, ingenuity and sticktoitiveness among other things. Let's raise good Americans.

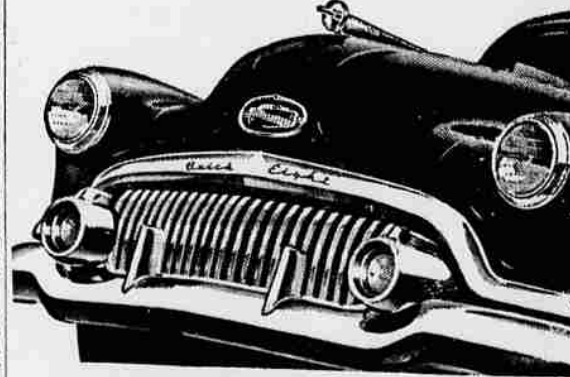
Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Fred J. Hayes, Jr.

Pine Production Below '51 Level

PORTLAND—(AP)—The Western Pine Assn. reported Tuesday that pine lumber production for the first 10 months of 1951 was six per cent below the same 1950 period, orders were down nine per cent and shipments, eight per cent off.

Output up to November 3 was 2,827,074,000 board feet, orders were 3,056,159,000 feet and shipments, 3,046,924,000.

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Editor's Mailbag

ARMISTICE DAY
We pause on each Armistice Day to stand in silence and pray, that peace may come to mankind, and war forever be behind. That war to end war was done, we thought that would surely come, and that of Nations" was to crown our efforts for a lasting peace, where troubles all could be But no, another war we saw to save Democracy. So we were not free, and in the end, deeds galore, more fighting in wars before, where millions were tortured and destroyed. We not how many millions died with cries for mercy to breathe. We hear of others buried alive. At last the more had come to stay, "what fools we mortals be!" now at length we plainly see other system is around. Communists everywhere are found war once more is raging on, know not where it will end how? We shudder at the last, they tell us to the war, will be the end of us sure, man will destroy himself last, or is God's judgment falling fast? These are the times that cross our mind each Armistice Day must we remember the path laid out by God's Son. We stand in silence and pray, the Peace of God may come to stay.

T. E. HAYES
Blanton Road, Eugene

DON'T BUTT IN

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—In recent issues of the Register Guard there has been mention of a group attempting to establish a movement to abolish the 4% collection on reckless spending of collections in this State. If that their aim, I would suggest that they just mind their own business.

It is bad enough that the Dealers and other left have the Federal Government plastered with a mortgage but would take several generations pay, without getting the states, counties and cities to the same shape. We should try to maintain some semblance of decency somewhere in this state.

I believe it was this same group who supported the movement to allow non-taxpayers to vote in school elections, as well as the silly attempts in 1948 and 1950 to set up a dictator in the Court House in Eugene. Surely they have nothing else to do but could find something better to tamper with the only thing having on wasted spending. We have money of our own to want to waste and spend where they are at liberty to do so. They are high enough here now, with people who pay them money to say as to how the money spent. Again, I would like to see anyone who has any inclination to meddle with this 4% attempt to mind their own business and leave other people's affairs alone.

Yours truly,
Robt. E. Nichols

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