

# The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

H. A. YOUNG and M. D. GRIMES

Publishers

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## Fragments of Fact and Fancy

With what chameleon-like devices Hitler strives to justify his outrages against civilization. In his speech to the workers of Germany a few weeks ago, he accused Churchill of wanting war for seven years. To be sure Churchill has been the Cassandra of Great Britain. Since the rise of Hitler, Churchill's warnings of Germany's military intentions went unheeded by his own government. Churchill wanted, not war, but preparedness to prevent the possibility of war.

So it is with other half truths and distorted facts in Hitler's speech. Some of his statements show that he has followed closely the arguments in this country by Huey Long, by the new dealers and by Colonel Lindbergh, that a redistribution of the wealth of the world is needed and that the have-nots are waging a revolution to wrest privileges from the haves.

No longer does Hitler proclaim the superiority of the German Aryan race and slave status for all other people in his new order of the world. Instead of being the "Jesus Christ as well as the Holy Ghost of the Fatherland" as announced at one time by his Minister of Church Affairs, he sought to bolster the spirit of his soldiers in his new year's address by promising that God will not desert them, while one of his marshals exhorted them: "Forward with God for Germany."

There is great need for haste in our defense preparations, especially in the building of airplanes. The lag in the latter is not due to half-hearted efforts by industry, as some reports would indicate. Neither are the big-wigs in Washington entirely to blame in their constant changing of specifications which prevents the mass production desired.

In actual combat American planes are showing defects and it is vital that these be overcome before a standard pattern is adopted. The landing gear on our planes is suitable for concrete runways but too light for the fields in England where concrete would be spotted by enemy fliers and the whole aerodrome blasted in short order. Other changes must be made to eliminate blind spots and give guns facing in all directions, as well as the installing of heavier armor plate in the fighting machines.

While Germany with the greater number of airplanes may not win the war, it is wasteful of life and material for England to attempt to fight with inferior equipment.

Although, as usual, the public is an innocent and helpless bystander, in the present feud between the Ascap and the broadcasting stations, the role is not irksome. With the revival of the old, old tunes, the music on the radio loses none of its charm and appeal. However the conflict between the union of composers and the government may terminate, this is one strike, lockout, walkout or what have you where the general public is not injured.

This winter's most pleasurable reading comes in the stories from nazi-occupied countries where the conquered outwit their captors. Among the many related by an American writer in last week's Life was the tale that sabotage in French airplane plants had reached the point where the Germans ordered that the new planes be flown by French pilots in their test-flights. The grapevine carried the word of "no more sabotage" but evidently it carried another message for when the planes took off, manned by Frenchmen, they headed straight for England!

The high point in the siege of Bardia was the attack of the "Aussies." Little did Britain realize a century or two ago when she was shipping her more turbulent souls from the tight island which is a continent, that law-breakers (we will not call them criminals although some undoubtedly were) and that the personal valor of their descendants would help save

the empire in the moment of its direst need.

Not all the inhabitants of Australia are of English blood. A German girl helped with the work in our childhood home. She was the jewel of a long line of such girls. Jennie Streicher's maiden name is the same as Germany's most depraved Nazi. Julius Streicher, with his bloody whip, may or may not be a relative of our Jennie but he is the personification of brutality, sadism and persecution in the whole of the reich. Jennie's character was the opposite of his. She married early and later with her husband and young son tearfully said goodbye to us when they started on their long trek to Australia. If her son or sons came back to Egypt and aided in the capture of Bardia we feel that fate was weaving justice out of the tangled skeins of many lives.



Governor Sprague put the finishing touches to his legislative message Saturday and the document is now in the hands of the printers. If the organization of the house and senate is completed Monday morning as is expected unless a hitch develops in the selection of a speaker, the governor is expected to address the lawmakers, assembled in joint session, shortly after noon Monday.

While the contents of the message are being closely guarded, it is expected that the governor will touch on such problems as the proposed reorganization of the state industrial accident commission, experience rating as applied to the unemployment compensation act, proposed changes in the forestry laws and the financial condition of the state which is very flattering when compared with conditions in the neighboring states of Washington and California.

Leslie P. Scott took over his new duties as state treasurer Monday morning at a brief ceremony attended by Governor Sprague, Secretary of State Snell and representatives of the press, in which Walter E. Pearson turned the office over to his successor. Pearson who was appointed to the post two years ago to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Rufus C. Holman to become a United States senator, was not a candidate to succeed himself but will return to Salem next Monday as a member of the Multnomah county delegation in the state senate.

The state highway department spent a total of \$15,100,000 during 1940, a report by R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer, shows. This total includes \$7,100,000 for new construction; \$5,330,000 for maintenance of roads and bridges; \$2,075,000 for bond retirement, and \$685,000 for payment of bond interest. Most noteworthy accomplishments of the year as noted by Baldock include completion of the Pacific highway route from Ashland south to the California line, grading and oiling of the last link in the new Willamette highway and completion of the new Pacific highway route through the city of Albany.

Prisoners who are domiciled at the new penitentiary annex south of Salem, will have to be content with a stairway as a means of reaching their sleeping quarters on the third floor of the new building. The state board of control this week turned down a request of \$5300 to cover the cost of an elevator for the building, on the ground that the "trusties" had plenty of time to walk up the three flights.

The Board of Control has authorized Secretary of State Snell to offer the new codes to county officials and state boards, commissions and institutions at the reduced price of \$58.75 a set. The state is paying \$61.87 per set for these self same codes in 1000 lots but the publishers are offering to sell them at the lower price and the state found it necessary to meet this competition in order to dispose of its surplus supply amounting to approximately 400 sets over and above those required to supply the members of the legislature for the next ten years and such other state officials as are entitled to receive them without cost.

Governor Sprague will ask the state legislature for authority to organize a state guard. Not that he expects to create such an organization, but just in case it might become necessary to do so in an emergency that might arise during the absence of the national guard troops now undergoing training at Camp Murray and Camp Clatsop.

Oregon and its political subdivisions — counties, cities, school districts, etc. — have reduced their outstanding indebtedness by \$71,548,780

## TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, January 7, 1921)

The train service between here and Portland was interrupted on Tuesday and neither passengers nor mail have been able to get through since. There was an 180-foot slide that carried the track away at Betzen, four miles beyond Cushman. There were other slides in that section, at Lake-side and Bufo. We deem it very improbable that any train can get through for a couple of days and meantime we are completely isolated from the outside world.

The first annual ball of the D. O. K. K., a Pythian auxiliary organization, took place at Goulds' hall last Friday evening and was a complete success in every respect. Seven hundred invitations had been sent out. The grand march at the opening was led by Mayor and Mrs. V. L. Hamilton and from that time on the affair was so enjoyable that no one wanted to stop.

County Clerk Oddy lost no time on the expiration of his term of office last Saturday but started Monday for his ranch up the East Fork in the Gravel Ford section. Whether he has yet arrived there his friends are uncertain, owing to the difficulties of travel now.

They have rechristened that long bench on the west side of the lobby where people congregate who have business with the tax collector up in the second story of the concrete annex to the court house "The Mourners' Bench." If you can't guess why, you will understand when you go up there to pay those 1920 taxes, which are about 50 per cent higher for Coquille people than the 1919 levy.

To fall into a well 18 feet deep with a baby in her arms and light on a platform three feet above the water was the remarkable experience of

in the past ten years, according to a survey by Walter E. Pearson, state treasurer.

On July 1, 1930, the state and its political subdivisions owed a total of \$185,643,457. By July 1, 1940, this debt load had been whittled down to \$114,094,677, a reduction of nearly 40 per cent.

The net debt of the state in 1930, according to Pearson's survey, was \$31,308,132. That figure is now down to \$13,681,578—a reduction of \$17,626,554.

The cities cut \$29,202,673 off their debt load in the ten year period—from \$76,681,848 in 1930 to \$47,479,175 in 1940.

School districts whittled \$9,168,068 off their debt load in the period from 1930 to 1940—from \$22,539,320 to \$13,371,252.

The net debt of the 36 counties was reduced from \$24,460,729 to \$15,551,451—down \$8,909,278.

The progress of other political subdivisions in their efforts at debt reduction are shown in Pearson's survey as follows: Port districts from \$9,556,117 to \$4,998,258—down \$4,557,859; irrigation districts from \$17,637,947 to \$16,398,061—down \$1,239,886; drainage districts from \$2,097,159 to \$1,337,554—down \$759,605; fire protection, highway improvement and other districts from \$214,074 to \$99,183—down \$114,891. The only subdivision group to show an increase in the debt load were the water districts whose net debt increased from \$1,148,131 to \$1,178,165—up \$30,034.

Incidentally with this reduction in the public debt has come a deduction in the annual interest charge. While figures are not available for political subdivisions the annual interest bill of the state which totaled \$2,928,323 in 1928 was down to \$1,617,633 in 1940.

The State Land Board has employed Marvin Klemme to supervise the "blocking" of the state's 700,000 acres of school lands. This is the first definite step in a program that has been under consideration for more than five years. The program involves the exchange of school sections scattered throughout the public domain to the federal government for an equal acreage grouped in larger tracts and more conveniently accessible to stockmen to whom it is proposed to lease the "blocks" for grazing with the federal grazing service in charge of grazing interests in Oregon and is thoroughly acquainted with the problem presented by the blocking program. It is expected that the "blocking" will require the better part of two years. The first blocks will be made on an exchange-of-use basis. The experiment proves satisfactory exchange of this will be made.

Temporarily unemployed workers in Oregon drew an aggregate of \$4,099,925 in jobless insurance during

Jean Pointer one day not long ago. The baby was Jack Noah, the fifteen months' old child of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Noah. All the shouting for a "rope" and a "ladder" and what not, finally convinced Lee Goodman that it was something more than ordinary children's racket that he was hearing. Goodman decided that they must wait for the ladder which presently appeared and up which Jean reached terra firma again.

George Bryant brought the Myrtle Point mail through Wednesday but he wouldn't have made it if his car-buretor hadn't been on top of the engine and so above high water mark.

Fred Belloni and family spent the week-end at Marshfield where they visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ekblad. Mrs. Ekblad was formerly Miss Ada Newell, a teacher here.

H. C. L. Gets It In The Neck—The Busy Corner is at the front this week with another broadside at low prices—Patent flour down to \$2.80 a sack; navy beans 20 lbs. for \$1.00 tomorrow; picnic hams 25 cents; Wesson oil 67 cents a quart; Iowa sugar corn 16 cents a can, etc. The cost of living stayed up a long time, but has certainly been on a steep down grade lately.

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Catton, of Schroeder & Aasen's burg at Norway, spent holiday week in Portland, returning Saturday afternoon.

Sunday Miss Camilla Lorenz started for Eugene to enter the University of Oregon at the opening of its second semester.

Coon & Rickard have sold their meat market here just east of the Farmers' store, to C. D. Ritter, of Marshfield, and A. E. Martin, of Riverton, who took charge on New Year's day.

1940 compared to \$4,052,888 in 1939 and \$5,916,399 in 1938, according to a report by the state unemployment compensation commission. Claimants for jobless insurance in 1940 drew an average of \$71.07 compared to an average of \$88.29 in 1939, indicating a shorter period of unemployment during the past year. Employers contributed a total of \$6,138,978 in payroll taxes last year compared to \$5,816,830 in 1939 and \$6,878,482 in 1938. The reserve in the commission's trust fund was up to slightly more than

\$10,000,000 on January 1, compared to \$7,809,935 a year ago. It is expected to hit \$12,000,000 within the next two months, members of the commission said.

## 2967 Enlist In Oregon Past Year

With 191 enlistments for the regular army during the month of December, the Oregon recruiting district of the regular army recruiting service finished the year 1940 with 2,967 enlistments to the state's credit, according to figures recently announced by Lieutenant Colonel B. H. Hensley, district recruiting officer. This figure set the best annual total recorded locally since the recruiting district was established in Oregon in 1922.

Local recruiting activities brought their best results during the month of October with the enlistment of 454 young Oregonians. Among district sub-stations, Salem was accorded first place with 237 enlistments for the year. The Marshfield office reported 166 enlistments.

Calling cards, 20 for \$1.00.

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