

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

Last week the fortunes of battle in north-Africa hinged to some extent on the time of day the attack was launched and the position of the sun. Rommel for the Germans had made a practice of starting tank battles in the late afternoon when the sun rays were full in his enemies' eyes. In their desperate need to halt Rommel's victorious push toward Alexandria, the British used the same strategy and with a flanking movement to the rear of the Germans made them turn to the west where the blinding light of the sun and its reflection from the sands of the desert turned the tide of battle in favor of the defenders of Egypt and of the whole middle east.

This is reminiscent of the great battle of Crecy in France on August 26, 1346. King Edward III of England, accompanied by his son and heir, the Black Prince, had invaded France with thirty thousand men. He had marched to the gates of Paris and then retired to the Somme where twelve miles from Abbeville at the edge of the forest of Crecy the French king met him with a force three times as large. The initial engagement occurred about three-thirty in the afternoon when the English had their backs to the sun while the French received its rays full in the eyes. Other causes contributed to King Edward's victory. One was that a short thunder storm had preceded the battle and the English archers had kept their bows dry in their cases but the French bow strings were slackened by the rain and their arrows fell short of their mark. (This reminds one of the admonition "Put your trust in God but keep your powder dry" of Revolutionary time over four hundred years later.)

The battle of Crecy was an important milestone in man's method of waging warfare because it was here that the English first used gunpowder in a great European battle. The first advantage, due to the position of the sun, may have given Edward's forces time to place their cannon and prepare to fire them, which in turn resulted in the utter rout of the French. It was here that the Black Prince, destined never to be king, won his spurs and adopted the triple feather crest of blind King John of Bohemia who died on the Crecy battlefield. With the crest he also took its motto, "Ich dien" meaning "I serve," which has been used by each successive Prince of Wales to this day.

When Germany marched through Belgium into France twenty-eight years ago next month we lost our belief that mankind was too civilized ever to make war again. The twentieth century had been ushered in with acclaims of peace and the idea fostered for the next fourteen years that only ignorant nations made war, the doctrine of evolution had been extolled and we believed that war between Christian countries was unthinkable. Then war came with all its barbarism and the ascent of man was seen not to be a progressive unity but that reverses and setbacks often wiped out the gain of a generation if not of a century.

The war which started at Pearl Harbor last December opened our eyes to another disagreeable reality. It was not the attack on the island of Oahu but the capture of the island of Guam that marked this loss of another belief. We had felt that American lives and property were sacred and that no enemy could seize either; at least their recovery would be prompt and weighted with punishment for the invader. Since then the greater Philippines have fallen into foreign hands and the more important Aleutian islands are being picked off one by one. We are ready to fight for our possessions and although we have been the loss of the first bit of American soil was inevitable and the thought of American citizens on Guam as prisoners of the Japanese was more upsetting than will be the shelling of the beach at Bandon or the bombing of Coquille.

How quickly war reduces men and women to the essentials of life. Now

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, July 7, 1942)

Yesterday about 12:45 T. H. Benham, employed by the Coast Auto Lines here, secured a marriage license at the county clerk's office and at one o'clock he and Miss Juanita Holden took the stage for Marshfield where they were married yesterday afternoon.

A bold robbery was perpetrated here yesterday noon, when one of the Gypsy women, who had been doing the celebration at North Bend this week, took \$25 from the till of the Coquille Trading Co.—C. R. Hancock's store. She wanted to tell Mrs. Hancock's fortune for a penny and when the latter opened the cash drawer she was pushed aside by the Gypsy, who grabbed \$25 in bills lying there.

All was hurry and bustle over on the city lot facing on Willard street this morning where Chairman Bert Folsom and a crew of men were busily engaged in getting the tent for the Chautauqua raised, the platform built and the seats installed.

Ray Jeub went up to Portland yesterday morning to drive a new car down.

Mrs. W. C. Laird, who has been visiting here since early in May, intends leaving Sunday for her home in Honolulu. Her sister, Miss Vesta Boyrie, will accompany her home for a visit of indefinite length.

Last Saturday George Raymond Clausen and Miss Goldie Gertrude Johnson, of Riverton, were married

when they pray for their daily bread they do not mean all the past luxuries that had been considered necessities for our way of an easy life but they mean the food which sustains life and those things needful for existence.

The dogma of white invincibility which went down when the Mikado's forces sank the Russian fleet some 38 years ago, and more recently at Singapore, Java and the Philippines, is in the ascendancy again following the Coral Sea and Midway battles. However, the idea of a dominant race "to whose upward and onward march the deep echoes of eternity should never cease to respond" is rather out-of-style today now that Hitler's bloody hands have sought to uphold the pure Aryan as a master race.



Washington, D. C., July 8—There is a chrome mine 12 miles south of Unity, Ore., about to be opened up and the operators have joined the opposition to the proposal to remove rails of the Brogan branch of the Union Pacific. If this branch is abandoned it will require a 76-mile haul of chrome instead of 42 miles as at present. Union Pacific wishes to abandon its branch. There is a shortage of steel rails and war production board is looking for any 70-pound rails it can find. Interstate commerce commission has jurisdiction over railroads, but in this emergency WPB can requisition the 24 miles of track and equipment now on the Brogan branch.

The traffic is indifferent, observes ICC. It is largely for sugarbeets and last year 97 percent of the traffic moved in 18 days. ICC will probably hold hearings on the proposed abandonment in Oregon next month.

P. S.—The Robinette branch also may be abandoned.

The man who rationed sugar and cut the allowance down to barely enough to get by not mentioning preserving, asked congress to give him money for a 91,230 organization, all on the payroll except 25,000 volunteers. This is the reason there has been a clash in congress between the office of price administration. Congressmen considered the set-up entirely too large, cut his request for funds and told him to organize accordingly. Thousands of volunteers would be on the staff, more lawyers than any other class of people. The set-up would give Oregon about 100 payroll workers.

When congress killed CCC and gave the director one year in which to liquidate, Oregon lost 16 camps which were to have been used for protection against forest fires. A

here at the M. E. South parsonage by Rev. A. B. Pendleton and left immediately for Portland.

Keith Leslie left last Tuesday for Portland, where he has a position with a firm of public accountants. Mrs. Leslie and baby will remain here until Keith returns from eastern Oregon, where his first duties take him.

J. M. Sturdivant, a pioneer of Coos county and resident of the Coquille valley for 49 years, died Monday night at his home at Myrtle Point, aged 88 years.

Last Saturday morning James H. James, one of our oldest citizens and a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, died at his home here of troubles incident to old age.

The following is a third list of fifty people who have taken membership in the County Health Association: Mesdames Anna Morrison, Rose Kudrna, Bessie Page, Myra Ball, Mary Gage, Ruth Candlin, Imogene Neal, Eula Schram, Beatrice Getz, Ella Strang, Grace Belleu, Mamie Martin, Christine Paulson, Isabel Kay, Neva Brown, Inez Zinner, E. D. Webb, H. W. Young, W. W. Gage, H. L. Johnson, Inez Chase, Maude Howell, Clara Bosserman, C. T. Skeels, F. Miller, J. L. Smith, Geo. Burr, Hal Pierce, E. P. Ellingsen, John Aasen, A. J. Sherwood, Florence Sanford, Miss Effie Floten and Messrs. A. L. Simpson, E. J. Page, Ben Currie, Keith Leslie, John Miller, F. C. Hudson, C. B. Dalton, Frank Timberlake, W. E. Buell, O. T. Nelson, H. R. Lukens, J. E. Norton, Jack Bridges and C. W. Gardner.

camp consists of 200 men and the average cost to the government is \$1000 per man per year. Oregon camps would have cost \$3,800,000.

With all the criticism of congress taking X cards (unlimited gasoline) members of congress received 200 cards and citizens of the national capital (mostly bureaucrats and diplomats) numbered 13,000. None of the Oregon representatives received an X card, neither James W. Mott, Walter M. Pierce nor Homer Angell; but X cards were drawn to several representatives from Washington. As a matter of fact, a congressman should receive all the gasoline he needs for run errands for his constituents. Street cars in Washington, D. C., do not take one to government buildings and it is necessary to drive or hire a taxicab. What burns up a congressman is to see some 14th assistant secretary of an embassy rolling around in a brand new high priced car which no congressman is permitted to purchase, or watch a bureaucrat in a big car with a chauffeur, especially when the bureaucrat is heading for a cocktail lounge or a social function.

Oregon coast will receive better defense against the enemy within a few months. An appropriation of \$97,000,000 has been made to place large cannon at strategic positions along the coast from Washington state to Maine. Present guns are old-fashioned, and the new ones will have a range that will keep enemy submarines or warships at a safe distance. Another added defense will be the use of small, swift boats and, probably, private airplanes. Senator Rufus Holman has written to the war department that he is not satisfied with the coast defense arrangements in his state, and Senator McNary has suggested that some of the material that is being shipped abroad be diverted to the Oregon coast. (American tanks, known as General Grants, were ineffective in Lybia, where the Nazis knocked them out; their range of fire was limited, and the tread was worn out from recoil of the 75-mm cannon).

Assertion was made to the joint committee hearing the Bone Columbia Power Authority bill that if water is a national resource which the government should control, then the government should apply public ownership to the coal mines, natural gas, oil and timber, all of which are privately owned and developed the same as water power in the Pacific northwest.

Since the capture by FBI of the eight trained saboteurs who were landed on American shores from submarines (they will be shot or hanged, make no mistake about that) it has been proposed to strengthen the guard at waterworks, utility plants and war industries in Oregon. This tightening up is now in process and 200,000 guards throughout the country at such plants are receiving extra alert instructions. Bonneville, the irrigation works in Oregon and a few other key points were placed under guard one year ago.

Recommends That State Taxes Be Shared By Cities

Greater local sharing of state-collected taxes is urged in a memorandum, "The Property Taxpayer and Oregon's Public Revenue System," submitted this week to the state industrial development commission by the League of Oregon Cities.

Sharing of state non-property tax collections would "encourage business in general and the location of new industries in particular in Oregon," is the conclusion of the memorandum's authors. Such sharing would also, it is believed by the League researchers, "represent a constructive method of hedging against return of the holocaust of property tax delinquency of the depression period;" "help slow down the movement of people from the cities to unincorporated suburban areas;" and "help reduce inequalities of property tax bills and benefits received from local government among residents of different taxing units."

Particularly available for sharing with local units . . . county, school district, and city . . . are income taxes and liquor taxes, in addition to motor vehicle and land-user taxes. The memorandum outlines a method of sharing income taxes by distributing all amounts collected over a certain sum to local units.

Necessity for sharing state-collected taxes to relieve the plight of property taxpayers is shown by the League in figures revealing that the average property tax rate in Oregon in 1941 was two-and-a-half times as much as in 1911 . . . 4.64 cents as compared with 1.75 cents per dollar of assessed valuation in 1911.

Between 1911 and 1941 property taxes levied by all governmental units increased 185 per cent, while the assessed value of taxable property within the state increased only 6.1 per cent, the memorandum points out.

Shrinkages in local tax bases are accounted for by the removal of substantial valuations through foreclosure of marginal properties; by depletion of timber resources; by removal of valuable classes of property from the local tax rolls, such as motor vehicle property, stocks, bonds, mortgages, certain institutional property, etc., and by increasingly large amounts of federal properties not taxable by local governments.

Tax bills in cities of over 5,000 population varied in 1941 from 7.75 cents per dollar of assessed valuation in Grants Pass to 3.49 cents in Pendleton.

Such existing high property tax rates, states the brief, have discouraged business, created tax delinquency problems, encouraged people to

move from cities, and added to tax inequalities in different taxing units. In pointing out the feasibility of greater local sharing of state-collected tax revenues, the League of Oregon Cities notes that complete figures for 1940 show Oregon was 30th among the states in local tax-sharing, and last in financial support given local schools. Oregon shared only 7.8 per cent of its collections, whereas Washington, in first place, shared 39.2 per cent of its taxes. Only 3 per cent of local school support came from the state in 1938. In the same year California schools received 83.2 per cent and Washington schools 56.7 per cent of their funds from the state.

Ruled out by the League as effective remedies for excessively high property taxes were radical reduction of public expenditures and streamlining of local services. "No amount

of improvement of administrative services will reduce high levies that primarily result from supplying governmental services which our 20th century environment requires, and which are now being financed on a tax base designed to support the little red school house," the report emphasizes. "penny-wise and pound-foolish" any major reduction of local government services."

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