

**Timely Topics**

By R. T. Moore

There is reason to believe that our State Department is working toward a peace formula by which the United States, Britain and Russia will dictate the terms of peace to the exclusion of the small European countries, and particularly France.

The reason indicated for omitting France at the peace table is that she is so torn by conflicting political views as to make impossible the welding of her various political parties into a unit for peace negotiation purposes. It is further thought that the entrance of the several small European countries into the peace conference will so complicate procedure as to seriously interfere with the carrying out of the plans conceived by President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. It is presumed the small nations will have enough faith in the good offices of the three major Allied Powers to accept their mandates without question. In this way the State Department would hope to short-circuit the troubles arising from the peace negotiations at the end of World War I.

This attitude of the State Department does not meet with the approval of many members of Congress and of a large section of the informed American public. It is feared that this attitude will bring the United States into an era of imperialism and will place upon the shoulders of Uncle Sam all of the blame for any mistakes while giving him none of the credit for the success. It is pointed out that European diplomats imposed on Uncle Sam after the last war and opponents of the scheme think that this is a step in the same direction.

All but a very few of the men in public life now believe that the United States must accept a degree of responsibility for maintaining order in the rest of the world. We can no longer rely on Great Britain to perform this vital task but it is a serious question whether it is wise to exclude the small nations from having a voice at the peace table. We fought a war with Great Britain over that very issue and to be consistent we must insist that every people have full opportunity to speak their mind on matters affecting their national life. While the war is not yet won we must, nevertheless, give careful thought to this matter.

One hears a good deal nowadays about huge corporate profits during war times. It is still quite popular to levy heavy taxes upon our corporations and to rely on them to finance a large portion of our national government expenditures.

I noticed an article recently that stated war corporate profits were as high as 53 per cent. Being somewhat of an amateur mathematician and knowing that Federal and State taxes absorb between 80 per cent and 90 per cent of the corporate profit, I am wondering how a firm could possibly make 53 per cent. Clearly it is a mathematical impossibility under the present tax structure for any firm having an invested capital of even ten per cent of its annual sales. It is not impossible if the corporation consists merely of a couple of desks and chairs in a rented room of a city building and with the main stock in trade being a favorable connection with some agency able to dispense war contracts which can be sub-let to manufacturing concerns looking for such work.

The truth of the matter is that manufacturing plants having the normal investment per worker hired, may be making five per cent or less on their invested capital after taxes are paid. They are not able to build up adequate funds to carry them over a slack period after the war. The able Democratic Senator George, chairman of the senate finance committee, is well aware of this fact and is deeply concerned. He fears that the present tax structure will disable very large numbers of the smaller corporations and will leave the field open to only the large and amply financed concerns. He has stated that he favors a large tax refund to corporations for a post-war back-log which will insure private jobs for returning soldiers and sailors. He probably will come forward with a bill to that effect when the next tax legislation is up for passage.

It is the controversy between those favoring State Socialism and those favoring private enterprise. If the State is to operate most businesses, a post-war back-log for corporations will not be necessary. If private enterprise is to be restored then such a back-log will be necessary. The country of our country depends on it. Congress are very apt to determine the way which our national economy will follow. It is a question which the people must decide for themselves. If they wish to work under an all-powerful government or do they prefer the old independent private enterprise system.

It was my good fortune to hear and see Lord Halifax, his wife, and

son, Capt. Wood, during their visit to Portland. Lord Halifax spoke from the Victory Center in Portland on behalf of the bond campaign.

When one looks into the calm face of the tall, gaunt Englishman and sees the fearless serenity with which he and his family face the future, made more difficult by the terrible war injury to his son, Capt. Wood, one is ashamed over the bickerings and blunderings of the Americans who have scarcely yet felt the effect of the war. There is no question but what Lord Halifax is a great leader, typical of the magnificent leadership which has carried Britain through its Armageddon. There is in his character the unyielding courage, the steadfast determination, and the clear-eyed judgment of one who fights for the right and knows that God is with him. It was an inspiring, though short speech, and one that I wish that all people in our district could have heard. With such men at the helm it is easily seen how Britain is great. Our own statesmen will have to attain much greater stature than is now evidenced if they are to be the equals of men like Lord Halifax.

Recent action by the C. I. O. in launching a campaign against Congressmen and Senators who voted for the anti-strike bill draws attention to the rapidly developing political line-up in these United States.

It now appears that organized labor is definitely lined up against the organized farmers and the unorganized middle class groups of storekeepers and professional men. Undoubtedly the anti-strike bill was passed because of the pressure from the farm block and the small business men. If union labor therefore attacks those who supported the measure they will be in direct conflict with the two above mentioned groups. Incidentally, Oregon's Senator Holman and Congressman Ellsworth are on the list for purging and we shall probably soon see a campaign launched in that direction. It will not be done directly, probably, but by quiet propaganda issued through local channels.

Samuel Gompers, the father of organized labor, was always careful to prevent his unions from mixing into politics. His fear was that the entry of labor unions into politics would mean the ultimate disintegration of the union because it is composed by so many of conflicting political views. While he felt that unions could be held together successfully in their campaign to secure higher wages and better working conditions in which all members are interested, the branching out into politics with its accompanying clash of personal opinion would lead to disaster.

Since Mr. Gompers' passing, the

labor movement has swung rather far in the opposite direction and with rather indifferent success, in my opinion. The thing seems to hinge on whether labor leaders can deliver the votes of their members, lock, stock and barrel, in the privacy of the polls. There has been reason to seriously doubt whether the individual union members will follow blindly the political leadership of the union heads. And if they do not, then the theory that union labor can be welded into an effective political pressure group will fall down.

Pressure politics is one of the most serious dangers to our democracy. In Europe, dictators have ridden to power on the vehicles offered by the large labor unions. Once in power, they have promptly suppressed the unions who put them there. I feel it is very dangerous for any organization such as a labor union, to indulge in taking issue on political questions other than those of a purely humanitarian nature. They are just as liable to be damaged by such a policy as any other fraternal organization.

Therefore, their intended line-up against members of Congress on such a purely selfish basis is, in my opinion, a mistake.

**Early Pioneer Is Laid To Rest At Bandon**

(Western World)

Eugene Hubert Robinson, 83, one of Bandon's oldest pioneers, passed away at his home on Fourth St. early Friday morning, July 16, following a lingering illness which had kept him confined to his bed for more than a year.

Mr. Robinson, who was born on July 31, 1859, in Wisconsin, would have celebrated his 84th birthday on the last day of this month. He lived in Humboldt county with his parents until grown when he moved to Curry county and was married to Leora Cope. They came to Bandon to make their home where Mr. Robinson operated the first butcher shop in this locality. He also engaged in extensive river fishing.

Deceased is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Geneva Shindler, Bandon, and Mrs. Connie Gadsby, Portland, and one grandson, Franz Shindler.

Graveside services, under direction of Schroeder Bros. Mortuary, were held at the K. P. cemetery with the Rev. E. E. Rosenkilde officiating. Mrs. Gadsby of Portland came to attend the funeral.

A special spring testing machine with almost human qualities has been "invented to order" by industrial engineers to test the fuse springs for various types of projectiles.

**Out-of-Doors Stuff**

by LANS LENEVE

There isn't one red-blooded American citizen who objects to war time restrictions, if he knows in his heart that such restrictions are really necessary in order to whip the Axis. No sacrifice is too great, no hardship too great to endure if we know that it is helping our brave lads out on the battle fields and on the high seas. But on the other hand, when unnecessary restrictions are heaped upon us just in order to make us war-minded, it is a horse of another color.

For instance, officials who are "in the know," state that there is an abundance of powder and shot on hand today. And we know that the ammunition that was manufactured for the coming duck and deer and pheasant, in fact all game seasons, has not been released to dealers.

With meat being rationed, the release of ammunition would mean a lot to sportsmen in general. It would put a lot of meat in the pot and would relieve the meat shortage. And, too, there is another way to look at it—especially if there should be an invasion of the western coast. Half the sportsmen would be caught without ammunition with which to defend themselves. With plenty of ammunition available, guerrilla warfare could be carried on. In fact, I know many small communities that boast enough expert rifle shots, that if banded together, they would certainly prove a real menace to a good-sized invading army. But as the case now stands, ninety per cent of the residents who possess guns and are

willing to defend our country, haven't enough ammunition of any description on hand to last over a period of a few moments in guerrilla warfare.

Depriving the sportsmen of ammunition is actually taking away needed protection. It is depriving hundreds of thousands of families of wild game, which we already have stated, would relieve the meat shortage a lot.

Just why can't the sportsmen be allowed ammunition? Perhaps some New Dealer has the answer. We haven't.

Major DeWitt, not so long ago, stated that "a Jap is a Jap" and went on further to state that regardless of where they were born that they were still a Jap at heart and could not be trusted. His statement met with the general approval of loyal Americans regardless of the fact that some persons would seek to lead us to believe that the yellow skunks are loyal in some cases.

I am merely citing the above as an illustration regarding hawks—for a hawk is a hawk—regardless. Many naturalists would lead us to believe that the majority of these birds are beneficial and that only the sharp-shinned hawk and Cooper's goshawk are really predators. The big red-banded tailed hawk is quoted as being a friend to the farmer. On the contrary he preys upon the farmer's chickens, the grouse and quail and pheasants. I have shot several of these birds with large Chinese roosters in their talons, with chickens, quail and young grouse.

The very small sparrow hawk is the only hawk that flies that may be classed as being a friend to man, for he picks up field mice and small rodents, but even he grabs himself off a small bird occasionally—and it

is only his size that prevents him from catching as large game as his big brothers of the skies. Yes sir, a hawk is a hawk—a chicken thief, a killer of wild birds, regardless of their specie and regardless of what a lot of naturalists would lead us to believe concerning them. And there isn't one that flies that will not prey on barnyard fowl and wild game birds and songsters if given the opportunity to do so.

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