

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

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"Presidents may come, and Presidents may go, but I go on forever," seems to be the quadrennial refrain of the present White House occupant.

Fragments of Fact and Fancy

In following the news of the day, we find ourselves especially interested in one type of story. Whenever a German prisoner is quoted, we eagerly seize upon his words. We realize that it is foolish to place much importance upon one man's thoughts as he quits the fight. He speaks only for himself and his views may not be those of the majority of his kinfolk. Nevertheless we try to understand what manner of men our enemies are from the revealing first utterances of those who surrender voluntarily or otherwise.

One story recently was of a few captured Germans who were set to digging graves for the dead. They were near collapse through fear until they were assured they were not preparing their own burial places. The whole brutality of Nazi tyranny lay back of that fear and told without words that German atrocities reports were true.

It has often been reported that prisoners of war, on reaching America, were astonished to find American cities intact and not in ruins. All Germans cannot cross the Atlantic to find their radio newscasters are liars and so many continue to believe what is told them.

A German doctor, minister for occupied territories in the east made an address in Prague not long ago, giving enlarged, distorted and fabricated news about United States. He said the technical revolution here had destroyed the peasant, laid waste prairies and millions of farmers wandered from place to place. The doctor had probably heard of our migratory workers or the dust-bowl jalopies on the road.

He declared that New York City is the symbol of destruction of individuality and that an old German farmstead contains more spiritual freedom and creative force than all the skyscraper towns and corrugated iron shacks in the United States of America put together.

He ended by saying that the New York underworld rules the country and pays for presidential elections. By the irony of fate just at the time this address was published, the notorious Frank Hague, boss of Jersey City, was making news in Washington, D. C., as the vanguard of those now shouting for a fourth term.

Any fair-minded person must admit that there has been a "smear-Willkie" campaign going on ever since the last election. Possibly we should say two smears have been attempted, one from within the republican ranks and the other from the opposing party. However, by starting in February this year instead of September, as in 1940, Willkie with his dynamic personality may make personal appearances before enough American citizens to upset the plans of his opponents at both the republican convention in Chicago and at the election next November.

One of the most frequent criticisms heard against Willkie is that he is too much like Roosevelt. Well, if we could have Roosevelt, without his faults, would any one object?

The American people apparently have different feelings about their two enemies. The hate we have for the Japs is an emotion that has little to do with the intellect; it stems from the instinct to crush the snake that strikes without warning; there is contempt as well as desire for vengeance in our fight with this sub-human foe.

The Germans, however, have taught us to respect their ability. We fight them because we fear their mastery of the world. The barbarity they display makes our blood run cold. Of the two, the Japs and the Germans, the latter are the greater transgressors because they are civilized enough to know the evil they do is evil.

If the C. I. O. and other union leaders succeed in raising wages, then

Timely Topics

By R. T. Moore

The Fourth War Loan drive is going well in the sale of Series E bonds, intended for purchase by the general public. There seems to be widespread indifference to the importance of meeting E bond quotas as a vital war measure and as insurance against future financial disaster.

The thoughtful and the provident are doing their duty in purchasing these bonds to the limit of their means. It is with the careless and the chronically improvident that we are concerned. The latter make up a majority of those who become public charges during lean years. Their symbol is the grasshopper in the fable of the Grasshopper and the Ant. Always having been provided for by the government and neighbor when destitution threatened, they are living high today trusting that they will be sheltered from the cold tomorrow. Not a thought of patriotic duty nor of gratitude enters their heads. The motto is: "Eat, drink, and be merry today, for tomorrow there'll be W.P.A."

High officials in the Administration and military leaders are deeply concerned over this dangerous frame of mind. Repeated warnings that this is a brutal, cruel war in which we have hardly begun, have been voiced in the press and over the radio. The current lack of success in the bond drive shows how little attention has been paid to these solemn warnings in some quarters.

Perhaps these people will have to learn it the hard way. Maybe the lesson will be driven home by long casualty lists, by sight of those returned from the war broken in mind and body, by stories of the bestial atrocities inflicted on our fighting men and women by friendlyish monkey-men, by the unexpected length of the war and its terrible cost in lives and fortune.

But learn it they must and will. The lives will have to be sacrificed and the nation's resources used freely in bringing the final victory. Let no one think for a moment that he can escape doing his part. The eye of the Almighty is upon him and full accounting of his stewardship cannot be avoided for long.

There has been much talk of voting privileges, discharge pay, jobs, and of a score of other advantages the nation is eager to give its fighting men. All are united as one in the desire to do everything possible for them in post-war. Now is the time to back up those words with our money and our effort. It's a case of "put up or shut up."

The universal anxiety among fighters is for security of their jobs and whether they can resume the life they left. It is the first duty of every civilian left behind to see that this fear is allayed. Jobs will be secure and prosperity assured if the people stand squarely behind the government in both financing and production effort. There is no place for free riders. Let every man buy these bonds to the absolute limit of his ability and let there be no cheating in determining what that ability really is.

Lumber Industry Facts, compiled by the National Lumber Manufacturers Association from data supplied by the industry and from pertinent Federal statistics, contains much of interest to Oregonians.

Oregon maintains first place in lumber production, a position held continuously since 1937. Though our chief forest product, Douglas Fir, is second to Southern Pine in total production volume, it comprises the greatest soft lumber stand remaining in the nation.

Our lumber industry has succeeded remarkably in keeping pace with the enormous war demand. It pays one of the highest wage schedules in the nation. Record production was achieved in the face of a serious shortage of man-power. The industry managed to maintain itself on the low net income average of around five per cent. The latter is hardly enough to overcome the accumulated working capital deficit from continuous losses during the period of 1929 to 1936 and the very small net returns of 1937.

the government will increase withholding taxes and the mad race will continue of the government giving with one hand and taking away with the other.

After learning that it really was a hospital they hit, the Germans come forward and declare that it was a mistake on their part. Frankly we still doubt them. They have made use of sacred spots, camouflaged their military activities, Red Cross banners and found religious edifices and so they set us to do the same and the more plainly marked our hospitals tents and ships are the more they expect we are hiding important war activities therein. Only after our hospitals prove to be hospitals do they try to excuse themselves.

to 1941. Lumber in Oregon exemplifies the ability of the American businessman and workman to deliver the goods when the chips are down.

But the main thing to note is the indication of a transition from an industry based on temporary liquidation of an expendable national resource into a permanent industry based on sustained yield of managed forest assets. The intent is to make a gradual transition that will not disturb the over-all workings of the lumber industry.

It is inevitable that some lumber operations will gradually drop out of the picture as lumber production is adjusted to annual growth. But it is hoped the change will come slowly enough to allow other industries to be developed to the point where labor released from lumber will be absorbed elsewhere.

The present Congress has proved sympathetic to petitions for repeal of the present discriminatory tax laws damaging to forest ownership and operation. It is hoped that the coming tax law will give lumber a fair deal. The Oregon delegation has worked hard on this matter. They deserve a good deal of credit for the favorable change in attitude on the part of Congress.

A more sympathetic attitude towards lumber on the part of State and County officials is another factor in helping the industry through this critical period. The old theory of "Soak the lumber baron while you have a chance" is being supplanted by the more intelligent program of helping perpetuate an immensely valuable pay-roll and source of annual revenue.

The public's part in the program is to be careful of fires in forest areas, to encourage the use of forest products by the nation at large. The team-work should insure the future economic importance to the State of this great industry.

A vital part of all post-war plans is the common requirement of "venture money" to finance expansion of private enterprise. The use of "venture money" is the cornerstone of every scheme for the maintenance of high employment levels essential to continued prosperity. It is the leaven in the bread of a healthy, well balanced economy affording comfort and plenty for all who will but exert the moderate effort necessary.

Until the crash in 1929 the main source of "venture money" was the small estate field. The money saved by the small-business men, farmers, skilled workmen, successful professional men, and the like was invested in securities involving a degree of risk but yielding good interest rates. Banks participated to the limited extent of making character loans and buying certain classes of commercial paper. The large estates of the prominent rich, though attacked as dangerous monopolies by political demagogues, never figured as important factors in the "venture money" field although they furnished large sums of such capital. It was the aggregate volume of thousands of small or moderate sized estates invested in commercial enterprise that provided the bulk of the billions used each year in the development of our industry.

Since 1936 these sources of "venture capital" have been pretty well dried up by confiscatory taxation plus harsh restrictions on private industry. The forcing down of interest rates, with government competing against private enterprise for the investment dollar, has taken away any incentive to risk capital in business when virtually the same return may be had by buying government bonds at no risk whatever. Neither private investors nor banks are interested in business financing when there is no advantage to be gained in higher interest rates.

Government policy was that the public interest could be better served by having the U. S. Treasury take over functions of private capital in the providing of jobs for everybody. Investment money in the hands of the public was channeled into government securities by regulatory coercion so that the government could gain a monopoly as a source of industrial capital and could thus control the management of all enterprise. The R.F.C. was used for this purpose to a limited extent. This is the "controlled economy" we are hearing so much about.

Faced with the necessity for enormously accelerated production for war use and having destroyed former sources of industrial capital, the government had to dump huge sums into the production arena to build up the rate to a point insuring the winning of the war. That a considerable portion of these astronomical sums should have been wasted was inevitable. Government has always made a mess of things when it tried to operate a business. It pits the professional politician against the professional business executive in a game at which the latter excels and the former is by training and temperament a clumsy amateur. Investigation is uncovering fantastic examples of gross waste of the tax-

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, February 15, 1924)

The Kiwanis, of Coos Bay, thirty-five strong, held their weekly meeting at the Coquille Hotel last evening and had as their guests an equal number of Coquille business and professional men.

There was a good attendance at the meeting of the Commercial Club Wednesday evening, at which time the annual election of officers was held. J. A. Lamb was chosen president and J. P. Beyers, secretary. Just after Mr. Lamb had been elected he came into the hall and, although he protested vehemently that he could not accept, he finally took the gavel and presided for the remainder of the session.

Fred Noeler and family, who returned from southern California last week, intend to again make Coquille their home.

John Donaldson, one of the oldest residents of the Coquille Valley, died at his home near Riverton on Tuesday of this week.

The Coquille Rod & Gun Club is going to have a "Bacon Shoot" at their club grounds across the river Sunday.

A week from tonight, Feb. 22, the Myrtle Point basketball quintet will be here to attempt to spoil the Coquille hoopers' perfect score of five wins and no losses.

payer's money. There will be an endless procession of sordid exhibits of incredible bungling, incompetency and the triumph of greed over patriotism, in parade before future generations. This was no different from previous conflicts in regard to graft and private aggrandizement at public expense.

Notwithstanding our shortcomings in preparing the nation for war, we have always triumphed over the foe and will do so again. The innate common sense and moral vigor of a free people commands the situation and thrusts aside the incompetent to bring to bear on the enemy the irresistible power of American enterprise.

Having become almost alone in the field of "venture money," the government must find a way to get business expansion funds into the hands of those who need and merit them. The first step in such a procedure is to withdraw all regulations tending to prevent the accumulation of adequate reserves by industry itself. It is foolish to tax away these vital re-

When the Pirates come to town, some one has to walk the plank. And that is what happened here last Friday evening when Lafe Compton, himself a Pirate, had to walk off into space, blindfolded, from the marquee over the lobby entrance to his hotel. . . . Before shoving him off into space Chas. Hall told the assembled crew of buccaneers that when a man was a traitor, when he deserted his gang, when he brought all the business of the hotels of Marshfield and North Bend over to Coquille with him, that death was too easy for such a one. "Why he'll even be trying to bring our ocean over to the Coquille valley," thundered the executioner as he pushed his victim from the end of the plank. (Lafe landed in the blanket all right and was repeatedly tossed high in the air.)

An eight-pound baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Clinton at their home west of town Wednesday evening.

The first meeting of the Story Hour will be held Saturday at 10:00 a. m. in the grade school building. Miss Anne Hendrickson, of the primary department of our schools, will be in charge of the first meeting.

The heavy planking between the postoffice and the Odd Fellow's building on the corner has been replaced with new the past week. It was an improvement greatly needed for the old lumber had broken through in several places.

serves in war time and then attempt to prime the pump in post-war by political distribution of the same money through alphabetical agencies. It is better to leave the priming in the pump. It's far cheaper for the taxpayer besides keeping the pump in operating condition ready for instant use.

A second step is to encourage and re-establish the former sources of "venture money" by eliminating punitive restrictions on investments in private enterprise. It is unfair to force private enterprise to compete with the government on interest rates for borrowed capital. Both types of investment should be left to seek their natural levels in the money market and the rightful balance restored to the national financial structure. Individuals and loaning institutions should be encouraged to assure their sponsorship of free enterprise so that it can resume its interrupted march towards world supremacy.

A final step is the resumption by government of its proper role of umpire rather than player. The last

decade has seen government burst all constitutional bounds and inundate the national economy like a devastating flood. Rather, let its waters be stored behind the stout barrier of the constitution so that they may be released, gradually and judiciously, to freshen the public economy when depression or adversity brings scorching drought.

Arthur Hooton is back on the job in the electrical wiring and repair business. He can be found north of ball park on Fairview road; phone 222R. 521fs

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