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MILITARY NEW LOOK

The writer is not a military man, his army career having had more to do with trenches than tactics, more of dishwashing than strategy. War is at best a miserable job that cannot always be evaded, the wisdom and avarice of man being what it is.

But the ideas that are current about the new way this nation and others are preparing for war make sense.

We do have the atomic bomb, the hydrogen bomb and goodness knows what other super-weapons with which men can be killed in un-numbered thousands. Maybe any possible adversary also has the same bombs. In any event there appears to be no advantage in planning to kill enemies with bayonets and bullets when a quicker means is at hand. To us, it is the killing that is bad, not the method.

During the last war both sides had gas of great potency and didn't use a bit of it. For fear the other side would retaliate, it was said.

Of course, war by atom will be total war. That means that women, children, animals and crops will all be destroyed along with soldiers in uniform. That isn't so appalling either. One dies as easily as the other and it has actually been a long time since there was such a thing as a neutral among the citizens of either side.

There is no chance to make war nice. It never has been. Even the destruction of foemen with a club is not a performance to arouse piety in the soul of the victor. Victims will get to eternity more easily by the explosion of the atom than by being stuck with a spear—and with less pain.

Both England and the United States, we read, have decided to prepare for atomic war. They probably have a superiority in that sort of war, something they could not have in a war of massed troops. The demonstration of atomic or similar power that blew a Pacific island into nothing so completely as to leave but a hole in the ocean floor brings us to a new destructive age. It is an age when we may as well use our new weapons as to depend on rifles and cavalry. That it happens to be cheaper is merely an extra added dividend which we may spend in lax living while awaiting the complete disintegration of the atomic age.

SENILITY
It is typical of the age that there should be an attempt to reform the method of selecting committee chairman in the politicians club that is known as the United States senate.

We have grown disrespectful of age. We send grandfather to the poor house or the mental institution when he grows too weak to spade the garden; we pay pensions to the elders so they can be gotten out of the way to leave their jobs to the younger who at 65 shall follow them into the semi-existence that is retirement. Thus we have lost respect for wisdom which comes only from experience.

Magazines and editorial pages are filled these days with reflections on the system that gives political power to those who have held office the longest. We read that the most able should succeed to those positions. Not given is a recipe for determining the most able.

Certainly there are crochety old men, ornery old men, old men so imbued with politics that they are not good chairman. And just as certainly there are young men with the same failings. Senator Langer is in the spotlight in the present case. Age is not among the most important of Mr. Langer's failings. It merely makes him susceptible to this new argument of the young. Langer wasn't good when he was young.

The critics are in the position of worshipping Earl Warren who is alright but hardly of worshipful stature. Langer got in the way, foolishly and for petty reasons. He was wrong. Yet, among the members of his committee there are several who would do the same thing if their personal ambition dictated it. Most committee chairmen are good men,

men who have the support of the voters of their states, men seasoned by experience. Generalizing from a single instance is poor science—and poor politics.

BLOTTERS
We make note of the fact that blotters are no longer so important as they were once. It could be that they will follow the horse-shoe, and the whalebone corset into the museums for forgotten articles.

Before blotters there was much difficulty about blotting ink and every well appointed writing desk contained a small container of sand which was poured over a newly written signature to take up the ink and give it a touch of roughness that often remained for years. Then some enterprising paper maker evolved the blotter which supplied a want for years.

In the days when ink was a darkish brown and writing was done with a generous old quill pen a blotter was a necessity unless there was unlimited time to wait for the process of drying. Ink makers found different inks, that dried more quickly, that were darker and needed less quantity. Later came the ball point pen that spreads an ink or similar substance that dries as it is distributed.

It is no longer necessary to inscribe a signature in the flowing curves of another day. In fact, it is almost impossible; the usual equipment not permitting it. Old fashioned writers were like orators; they used well rounded capitals as the orators used well rounded phrases.

A wide downstroke may be compared to the awesome tones of an orator. Now writers scribble a name that is barely legible and entirely without the beautiful flourishes of the days when a pen full of ink would hardly write a single name.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Local government used to be the only kind of government there was. Government started that way. In recent times it has been consolidated and organized until the average is little closer to the management of his country than to the management of the hereafter.

Everything has grown, business, agriculture, science and government along with it. Properly, too. Government has to be big to handle other things that grow to such size. Along with the growth of government, and making it bigger, is the tendency to heap upon it so many functions that need not be given to central government—that are properly local in character. The imposition of these upon government handicaps it while taking away from cities and counties and school districts the management of their own affairs.

Without responsibility local government doesn't do a good job, doesn't attract good men. There are fewer trained administrators to go to big government with consequent loss of efficiency.

Local government lost power the state and federal governments began providing services that local governments couldn't or wouldn't furnish the people. Often the people refused to pay local taxes for something that they accepted from the federal government and paid much larger taxes for. The state also off-ended against local government.

Now local government merely has a crumb picking assignment. It is handicapped by restrictive tax limitations. Consequently the federal government gets the greater part of the taxes, the state another large slice and the local government gets the remainder. Redistribution of tax funds to local governments is seldom on a basis of equality with the result that some citizens are paying for more than they receive while others are getting more than they pay for.

It will take a long time to reverse the trend but it can be done if voters will refuse to permit central governments to do anything that can be done locally. And if they will take the time to manage local government or see that it is done.

REAPPORTIONMENT
No one is surprised over the supreme court decision holding the new apportionment of this state valid. It is very difficult to declare a constitutional amendment unconstitutional. It is true that the federal constitution does guarantee each state a republican form of government. That is a term that is variable in point of time. It was not expected that the court did not find the new apportionment to be contrary to the republican form of government even though it is widely different than the republican form of the national government.

Rural Oregon at one time was able within limits to balance its political power against the economic power of the metropolis. Now the city will have both political and economic power. Not complete, of course, in either case but close enough that ordinary political sagacity will permit



EOCE To Host Agricultural Meet

The second regional emphasis program in the 25th anniversary celebration of Eastern Oregon college of Education, La Grande, will be featured on Saturday, March 6. This program is particularly geared to the interests of people engaged in agriculture, grazing, and forestry.

MAIL SUBSIDY
There is properly a review going on about the costs of the postoffice department and its long time inability to meet expenses in a time when costs are increasing.

Proposals to increase the price of letter mail to four cents are opposed, naturally, by the great mass of letter writers. First class mail is the only mail that pays its way and it seems wrong to make it pay for second and third class mail, both of which cost money to the postoffice department.

Second class mail is newspapers and magazines. It has always been sent to subscribers at less than its cost. That has been a policy of the government for years. It started because the government felt that it should be partly responsible for providing information to the people. The subsidy is really to the readers who get their papers and magazines cheaper and would pay more if the subsidy was removed.

Third class mail, includes the advertising material that encumbers each box almost every day. It costs government a great deal and the interest in it is not great. The wastepaper boxes in every postoffice give sufficient proof of that statement.

The government now has a plan to increase the price of second class mail which will about double it over a period of a few months. We offer no objection to that although we think that readers and publishers are entitled to efficiency along with the increased costs.

Third class mailing is so cheap that it permits scatter-gun sending of material to box-holders a large part of whom have no interest in the product being sold. It should be increased enough that mailing would only be to selected groups. Otherwise it clogs the mails.

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ghout the day with a noontday luncheon featuring President Strand's address, and the sectional discussion groups terminating the program at 3:30 p. m.

Tired Soil Held Dangerous Loss

Wayne Austin, regional agronomist of the soil conservation service, pointed out last week the importance of a vacation for the soil.

WANT ADS

MAN WANTED: To own and operate Watkins business in near-by locality. Hundreds of families needing service on famed Watkins Products, now Nationally Advertised. Must be over 21 and have car. For information write J. R. Watkins Company, 137 Dexter Avenue, Seattle 9, Washington. 16-21c

FOR SALE: 75-00 tons baled alfalfa and barley hay, \$20.00 a ton on ranch. Also few tons Compana barley seed (drouth resistant) \$75.00 per ton. Ben Taylor, Antelope 15-18p

STATE WIDE PAINT CO. complete painting and decorating service, spray or brush Phone 3977 or 5293, 1205 E. 12th St. Vern Campell and Jack Null, The Dalles, Oregon 38tfn

CUSTOM SLAUGHTERING — Meat cutting, wrapping, sharp freeze. C & C Food Store, Grass Valley, Oregon. 47fn

FOR SALE: 4 bedroom house, 3 lots, garage, 40' x 20' shp; electric heater & tank, oil heater & 265 gal. fuel tank, all goes for \$4750.00. Ivan Kirkelle Moro, Oregon 26fn

SPINET PIANO: Sacrifice for quick sale. Cash or terms. Can be seen in Moro. Write Tallman Piano Stores, Inc., Salem, Ore. 18-20c

FOR SALE: Whirlpool washing machine; Harold Owens, Grass Valley, Ph. 572. 18-19c

WANTED: Housecleaning and ironing. Phone Moro 594. 18-9p

FOR SALE: One Robin-Horst weed sprayer, trailer, model 82 B, 40 ft. flex-action booms, Wisconsin air cooled motor. Ready to go. Tex Irzyk, Moro. 18-19c

In time of war and good prices we drive our soil to the hilt to make that almighty dollar. Now, in the time of allotment, is a good time to give many acres of our land a rest or convalescent period, to build it up.

You can aid this by planting this land to soil improving and building crops. Grasses and legumes planted in various places build the soil, cut erosion some of which we cannot see, and furnish pasture and hay for our livestock. Legumes and grasses add organic matter, plant foods, humus to the soil and aid in building a more favorable soil structure which has an important roll in raising crops. It makes possible better aeration and microbiotic action as well as other factors.

Hunters Asked To Supply Information

A selected group of Oregon's hunters will receive a letter from the Oregon Game commission within the next week.

Several years ago, through the use of special equipment, a list of 6,000 hunting license numbers was compiled. Numbers were selected at random by mechanical means so that a cross section of hunters would be obtained. These same numbers are used to conduct a random sample each year. Since few hunters get the same hunting license number two years in a row, the probability of receiving a questionnaire in successive years is quite remote.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All persons having claims against the Estate of Agnes R. Andrews, deceased, are hereby notified to present them, with the proper vouchers and duly verified, to the undersigned, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Administrator of the Estate of Agnes R. Andrews, deceased, at the office of T. Lester Johnson, attorney at law, Wasco, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, to-wit: February 26, 1954. William H. Andrews

Spencer & Libby
funeral home
PHONE 1214
800 KELLY AVE

A name closely associated in the public mind with dependability

Administrator
T. Lester Johnson,
Attorney for Administrator 17-20c

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All persons having claims against the Estate of Jesse N. Landry, deceased, are hereby notified to present them in proper form to the undersigned, the duly appointed, qualified and acting executrix of the Last Will and Testament of Jesse N. Landry, deceased, at the office of T. Lester Johnson, attorney at law, Wasco, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice, to-wit: February 19, 1954. Eva Landry Executrix

T. Lester Johnson,
Attorney for Executrix 16-9c

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All persons having claims against the Estate of Bertha Coyle, deceased, are hereby notified to present them, with the proper vouchers and duly verified, to the undersigned, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Executor under the Last Will and Testament of Bertha Coyle, deceased, at the office of T. Lester Johnson, attorney at law, Moro, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, to-wit: February 26, 1954. Thomas J. Coyle Executor

T. Lester Johnson,
Attorney for Executor 17-20c

Dr. Otis G. Perkins
Optometrist
405 E. 2nd St.
(Across from Stadlerman-Bonn Hardware)
Phone 5362 The Dalles, Ore.

Eureka Lodge No. 121 A.F. & A.M.
Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with us. Howard Ross, W. M. H. B. Pinkerton, Secretary

Bethlehem Chapter No. 3 O.E.S.
Meets every second and fourth Thursday in each month, visiting members invited. Moro, Oregon. Betty Christianson, W.M. Elsie Jones, Secretary

Moro Lodge No. 113 I.O.O.F.
Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in I.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited. John E. DeMoss, N.G. Ivo Watkins, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116
Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. Althea Burnet N.G. Helen Martin, Sec.

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