

THE CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN

Re-established, September 13, 1923.

Entered as second class matter at the post office, Central Point, Oregon, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Published weekly at Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon and devoted to the best interests of the city and vicinity.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Six Months \$1.00
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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor

Lifted Editorials

ON THE SUBJECT OF HIRED HELP

Now in the winter of our discontent when we are distracted with the thought of what has become of last summer's wages, comes opportunity to reflect on the high cost of government. This is the time of the year the man who pays taxes on real property is apt to compare himself to the squirrel confined in a barrel cage which finds out that the faster it runs, trying to get out, the faster it gets nowhere.

We hear many generalizations on the subject of democracy these days but if the citizen will but pause to get his bearings he must realize that we are not really a democracy, but a republic. We are governed by representatives, to whom we delegate authority. None of us would ever dream of engaging a force of hired men and settling them to work with instructions something like this:

"Now, I'm hiring you to represent me. Go out and do the required work. Buy whatever you think you need and dip into my pocketbook to pay for it. If you find my funds insufficient, tell the dealers to charge it to me; or go to the bank and borrow money on my credit. You are also authorized to mortgage my property as security and take it away from me if I cannot meet specific regulations which you set up. Fix your own salaries, arrange your own contracts, get me into trouble with my neighbors. Whatever you do, I'll back you up in it."

Instances have been known where a private citizen has done his business in this way. That was when the right type of help had been found to fit the job. As a rule, however, any citizen who undertook an experiment of the sort would expect to be waited on by a committee of alienists to ascertain his sanity.

Neither is public business quite that foolishly done. We have set up restrictions on the incurring of bonded indebtedness. We publish budgets, we subject appropriations to referendum. Few of these curbs, however, are in effect with nationally conducted business. Even in local and state business they are ineffective, though we do have much better control of state than of national business practices.

Fifty years ago there was no great rush to get government jobs. As a rule they were looked down upon. Clerkships in Washington were considered akin to being buried alive.

With little prospect of advancement the government clerk led a restrained existence. Now note the difference.

There is a great rush now to get on the government payroll. It is a synonym for social security which private employment lacks. It used to be that every boy dreamed he might be president. Now his goal is a lot more definite. He wants to connect up with a government job with short hours, comfortable pay and retirement prospects.

But as a partner in a vast cooperative undertaking the average tax paying citizen is apt to grow discouraged. He sees the group efforts to gain advantages by passing laws and establishing commissions; he sees how difficult it is to abolish a commission once it is established. For example, look at the milk control! National controls are much more firmly entrenched. He realizes that this push for government aid and jobs is reaching a position where it is a voting power in the land and a menace to free institutions.

If he stops to analyze the situation he must come to the conclusion that much of the blame for this state of affairs lies in the fact that we vest the taxing and the spending power in the same individual. We have a system of checks and balances which places law making, law interpretation and law enforcement under different heads. It works for a political balance.

In the early days our fathers did not concern themselves over how much public money was spent. It was too hard to get hold of to warrant many regulations on how it was to be spent. But now the country has grown, wealth has expanded, new devices for credit have been invented and the spending of public money has reached a point where it is tied up with public liberty.

Just as we balanced political power, we will have to balance taxing and spending power. Perhaps this may come through the establishment of a treasury czar, with definite tenure of office and power restricted only by constitutional limits or it may mean that budgets will have to be submitted to popular vote with power to strike out items. By whatever means it is achieved there must be a change.—The Monmouth Herald.

Letters from England

This week we print a letter from another sister of Mrs. Weighill, Mrs. Alfred Lawley, Chester, England. The letter last week was from Mrs. Eric Willett, also at Chester. Written November 4, the letter read:

My Dear Mary:
Very sorry to say that my other letter was never mailed it was put in an old hand bag, which I hardly ever use so I am writing this as more up to date. I went to Liverpool Tuesday before last and took Margaret with me (her little daughter). She is a real comfort to me. I can tell you she is so handy and quick over every thing. We only saw one bomb crater on London road. It had gone down about 30 feet through the pavement and knocked out a few of the shop windows and fronts. It happened at night fortunately and I don't think any one was killed.

We were in the same store when there came another air raid warning. The assistants just stop serving you, telling you they will attend to you when the air raid is over. They then clear the floors of people and you all walk down to the basement,

where they have quite comfortable shelters and you can all sit on benches. There is a separate shelter for the shop assistants. I am telling you this as I expect you would like to know what happens when you are in a shop. The last time I was in Liverpool, I was in Lewis' when the alarm went. Well they just make you go down as far as the third floor or lower if you want, then they reckon you as safe there, (of course they are seven stories high), I was just having my dinner in the restaurant so carried it down with me to finish it.

Most of the shops have new windows in, the others have been broken by blasts. Usually, they are much smaller and made as shutters mostly so they can use them as a blackout. The police are very severe with people showing lights and fine you very heavily if they catch you breaking this regulation.

That bomb I told you about in my last letter landed at Tattenhall, 8 miles away. There it wrecked every thing out on a farm. The man at Border Home Farm made nearly 90 Pounds for the Spitfire fund by showing people the German bomber that crashed there. Border Home Farm is the farm that Mr. and Mrs. Weighill left when they came to America to live.

We are not going to be able to buy silk stockings after December 1 and the purchase tax came on November 2 and one third percent on lots of things, so what we cannot afford we do without.

Love to both, Eleanor.

Extract from another letter written by this same sister—"Wasn't it a good thing that none of our children were on the City of Berar, that boat that went down with vacuums? I should never have gotten over it if any of ours had been lost that way." Mr. and Mrs. Weighill had written and told this sister that they would be glad to take two of the children. She also thanked Mrs. Weighill for the photograph saying "It looks like living in America suits you."

New Bull Service Aids Co. Dairymen

Organization of the Wooten, Britt Bull Service under the sponsorship of the community and cooperative service section, Farm Security Administration, enables three Jackson county dairymen to improve production of their herds, announces Eugene Hampton, county FSA supervisor.

The new cooperative is set up on a community service basis with members signing patronage agreements for use of the service. Purchase of a registered Guernsey bull will serve thirty cows on member farms. A limited number of memberships are still available to small dairy operators in the community.

Howry Wooten will act as treasurer of the organization. Members include B. Franklyn Wooten and James L. Britt.

Economic Highlights

The British haven't announced it officially—but, according to the international grapevine, major British strategy now is to knock Italy out of the war. That explains the recent increase in British naval action in the Mediterranean. It also explains the many observing and reconnoitering trips the Royal Air Force has been making over Italian soil. The British haven't begun to shoot the works as yet. They are increasing the severity of their attack

on Italy slowly and gradually, and it may spring before the assault reaches full momentum.

It is obvious that this strategy is sound. Italy has definitely proven herself the weak point of the Axis. In the opinion of practically every military authority. There seems to be an astonishing lack of morale on the part of the mill run of Italian troops.

The large Italian navy has shown a strange disinclination to fight, and Italian detachments have actually run at full speed for home when confronted by English squadrons of inferior speed and gun-power. And Hitler has so far hesitated to give Italy a helping hand, and has let Mussolini stew in the bitter Greek juices of his own cooking. It may be that Germany is so far spread out now, due to the various Axis "victories" in middle Europe, that Hitler simply cannot spare the troops and equipment that would be necessary to save Italy's bacon.

Tone of recent Italian press comment is significant. When Italy invaded Greece, the papers all took it for granted that the affair would be over in a matter of weeks at the outside. Now Italian editorial writers are talking about a long campaign. The official army communiques have lost their past boastful note. They say little, and attempt to gloss over the staggering Italian reverses. And rumor has it that a considerable proportion of the Italian people—who never wanted war, and who dislike Germany far more than they dislike England—are getting tired of the way things are going.

From the British point of view, Italy is fairly soft picking. Her industrial capacity is largely concentrated in the Milan area, which is similar in terrain to our own Middle Western plains country, enjoys good weather most of the year, and so is easy to bomb. The Italian air force is large in numbers, but apparently, small in skill and courage. Don't be surprised if you read before long of British air raids of almost unprecedented intensity over the Milan and Turin regions.

As this column has pointed out before, the Greek-Italian war has been given England a chance she would not otherwise have had to obtain air, naval and perhaps submarine bases on the Greek islands. These bases provide an almost perfect starting and supply point for action in the Mediterranean. Reports now say that large British naval detachments are roaming the Mediterranean, their object being to ferret out and destroy Italian naval power.

If, as England hopes, Italy should

fall, the blow to Germany would be terrific. Hitler would lose more than a partner of dubious courage and power. He would take a terrific beating in prestige in the small countries he has forced into his gradiose Axis. It is undoubtedly true that Britain depends on opposition within these countries to help her win the war. Germany's policing problem is one of the most difficult in history. You can't shoot all dissenters. And one man in a factory, trained in sabotage, could disrupt production for months. It has lately been reported that England is starting a secret sabotage system in central Europe.

Interesting sidelight on British plans is provided by a report that an English purchasing agent recently came to this country with orders for 1,000 monster tanks of the 70-ton variety. Told that such implements of war would destroy British roads, he replied that they weren't designed for use in England. Obvious implication is that Britain is already laying plans for eventual invasion of the German-dominated continent.

It doesn't look as if this is going to be a rubber stamp Congress, despite the President's precedent-breaking reelection. The final election returns were hardly in before Congress refused to adjourn—in the face of White House pressure—and passed the Walter-Logan Act, which is some-

thing the White House definitely did not want.

Significant point is that both these decisions were and could have been achieved only through a Republican coalition with a substantial number of Democrats. It is true beyond question that many Democratic congressmen are bothered by what they regard as a predisposition toward one man rule on the part of the President.

The President himself has thrown no bombshells since the election, and in his statements and press conferences has taken a moderate stand.

Charlotte Richardson received a card from her parents at Odgen, Utah and they expected to leave for home Wednesday.

J. R. BIERMA

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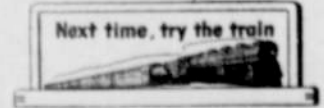
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