

# 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 8, 1879.

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

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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL  
Editor and Proprietor

## EDITORIALS

### INEXORABLE FACTS

Economic theory, no matter how finely spun, becomes rubbish when it collides with certain hard facts inherent in human nature. It is a fact, for example, that the average man will not enter upon an undertaking of any nature unless he sees promise of direct benefit to himself, or to someone or something in which he has a vital interest. At the moment, the banks of the nation are suffering from lack of loan demands. Individuals and businesses are not committing themselves to future obligations. You can call it fear, or whatever you wish. But whatever you call it, the fact remains that except for government induced activity, enterprise is not going ahead.

Guy Emerson, vice-president of the Bankers Trust Company, of New York, forcibly pointed out the dangers into which this country has drifted as a result of letting too much theory obscure the dictates of common sense, when he observed: "The inexorable fact will sooner or later become manifest that only a confident, creative, risk-taking business and government want, either now or after the defense era is over."

By using the vast reservoirs of private credit for construction of new armament plants and expansion of the growing threat of a crushing public debt. But it will be used only if the private citizen is given some assurance that he can go ahead, borrow money, and proceed with a definite program of expenditure without the handicaps of too many legislative and regulatory penalties which promote loss rather than profit.

Business, if backed by a friendly government, intent on easing the "rough spots" instead of making them rougher, can do a real production job. But as long as it is artificially hampered by inimical officialism, maximum production cannot be secured.

### ON THE DOT

A short time ago, a man walked panting into the office of the Wisconsin State Treasurer. Under his

arm was a very remarkable check. It was remarkable for its size—it measured six feet by two, and was the largest ever to clear through a Madison bank. And it was even more remarkable for the amount of money it represented.

The check was written for \$1,987,518.70—and it marked the 1940 tax payment of the Wisconsin Power and Light Company to the state in which it operates. Total taxes paid to all units of government by that company in 1940 exceeded \$2,000,000. Fifteen years ago taxes took a little more than six cents out of each dollar this company received in revenue from its customers. Today taxes take around 18 cents.

That million-odd dollars mean much to the people of Wisconsin. It will pay for roads and for the upkeep of governmental departments. It will educate children and provide police and fire protection. It will go out in relief checks to the needy. It will do a thousand-and-one similar jobs. And what is true in Wisconsin is true to a greater or lesser extent in every other state in the union. The utilities everywhere are among the largest taxpayers. An, equally important, they are certain taxpayers—when times are hard they don't let back taxes pile up. They pay in full when tax day comes—just as they pay in full, right on the dot, for labor and materials and everything else.

When government goes into the utility business, these gigantic tax payments are wholly or largely lost. That means that all other taxpayers must pay more to make up the deficit. Or it means that worthwhile state activities must be cut down for lack of funds. Or it may mean an increase in the public debt—to be paid, with accumulated interest, on some future day. These are a few of the hidden costs of socialized power.

The Wisconsin case is just one example of the fact that it is private enterprise which keeps this country going.

It is from private enterprise that taxes must be raised to finance the defense program, not from tax-exempt municipal or Federally owned business.

### WARRIORS AGAINST DISEASE

American medicine, as an authority recently observed, has a weak spot. It is not a weakness affecting the patient—the sick man or woman anxiously seeking a return to health. Curiously enough, this weakness has helped the patient—for the weakness lies in the fact that medical profession has been so busy fighting disease in experimental laboratories as well as at the bedside of the ill, that it has found little time to tell the public of its tremendous achievements.

The undeniable record is there for all who wish to read it. And it tells, through the figures, a dramatic and inspirational story of an endless battle against disease and suffering and death.

That battle has won victory after victory. In the period of a century and a half, in this country, the life expectancy of man has nearly doubled—from 35 to 62 years. During

## O, Say, Can You See . . . ?

By LOIS GRIGGS BOWEN  
In the Oregon Legionnaire

And what do you see when you see the flag of the United States of America? Seven horizontal red stripes alternating with six white stripes and forty-eight stars on a field of blue in the upper corner. Is that all?

Seven stripes of the color of the rich red blood that flowed in the veins of the men and women who made it possible for that flag to wave over this land. The men and women of the decades before the American Revolution, who set sail upon unknown seas with courage, faith and hope deep in their hearts, that somewhere in the world was a land where they could live and work according to their high ideals.

Red blood of staunch men and women, who, in being true to those ideals, could resent oppression and evolve a Bill of Rights and a Constitution which has seen every other form of government in other lands crumble and fade away.

The red badge of courage in the heart of every real American—courage to sustain him and urge him onward to rebuild and again rebuild, when war and calamity overtake him, to treasure ever and always the ideals on which his ancestors built the firm foundations of this great country.

Courage that went through Valley Forge—that could say, "but not one cent for tribute"—that could die, yet live through Gettysburg and The Alamo—that could plod westward, and northward to Alaska—that could "Remember The Maine"—that could catch "the torch from falling hands and hold it high!"

Six white stripes. Those alternating red and white stripes could be white bandages on the wounds of men, whose lives seeped through—that those stripes might ripple aloft.

Horizontal stripes . . . Horizon of hope toward which the Pilgrims sailed—of faith in, and love for God and man—of vision which could protect future generations from their weaknesses—strength to finish the task notwithstanding hardships and discouragement—and adventures for the gay and valiant, who are forever searching for new frontiers.

A blue field for pure white stars. Blue for valor, for truth. The color chosen for the uniforms for the Revolutionary army; those uniforms which, although they became worn and ragged, still covered the men who clamored for the right to fight for freedom.

Freedom to worship God, to aspire to and achieve the heights—to think and speak without fear—to bear and rear children and to instill in their hearts the love of God and country.

The White Stars in our flag. Like the star of Bethlehem, there is a promise—of the purity of America's destiny. The assurance was strong in the souls of the men and women who lived, struggled and fought gloriously, and died bravely.

We don't salute a piece of linen or silk or cotton—but we DO salute the flag of the United States of America, because it symbolizes more than two-hundred years of life and growth, and the millions of hearts that beat high with indomitable fortitude under that flag—for FREEDOM!

If this is a part of what the flag means to you—then breathe deeply and resolve to be true to America and to American traditions.

that time, typhus, once one of the greatest killers, has all but disappeared. Smallpox and diphtheria, dreaded specters not so long ago, have been robbed of their terrors. Other great scourges—typhoid, diabetes, tuberculosis—have been brought under control, and their mortality rates steadily reduced.

That is what American medicine—private medicine—has done. And all over the land, in countless laboratories and institutes, privately financed and managed for the most part, the doctors and the scientists are fighting, day and night, the scourges which have not yet been conquered.

Medicine is not an industry. But, like industry, it has rendered its greatest service to the people under a system which places no brakes upon the achievements of the individual, and which encourages any man, in any field, to develop his talents to the utmost.

### Economic Highlights

It is obvious that the purpose of British strategy is now to eliminate Italy as a major belligerent in the war. That thought unquestionably underlay the recent British naval invasion of the Adriatic Sea—a body of water which, on the basis of fighting ships and manpower, Italy should be able to control with ease. England is rapidly liquidating Italian military influence in Africa.

There seems to be little doubt that Mussolini is on the down grade and that the magnificent Fascist empire he envisioned has small chance of being realized. If Duce has but two alternatives, both of them unpleasant from his point of view—he must either surrender to England, or ask that Hitler save him. The first alternative is extremely unlikely—Germany could not permit it without risking a tremendous loss of prestige. The second alternative means German domination of Italy. The Italian people, going by the judgement of the best observers, will

not like that, but there will be little they can do about it. Unconfirmed reports say that Gestapo agents are already in Rome, and it is known that the German air force is conveying troops to Albania. It looks as if from now on Mussolini will be only Hitler's stooge.

If England does succeed in eliminating or greatly reducing Italian military and naval power, it will be a major victory. At the same time, it will bring with it increased danger of a German attempt at invading England. The British blockade is extremely effective, and the part of Europe the Fuhrer controls is running short of essential supplies. So, when Churchill said the other day in Commons that he expected an all-out German attack within two months, he was not talking through his hat. It is the logical move for Hitler to make. And the fact that the German air force has substantially reduced the intensity of its raids over Britain also leads to the belief that Germany is preparing for a decisive blow against England.

England is superbly prepared to resist invasion, even though she is as yet inadequately prepared to carry

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the war to Germany on the Continent. Expert opinion generally holds that Hitler's great opportunity was directly after the evacuation of Dunkirk—that England could not have successfully resisted a determined invasion then. At the present time, they think, Britain has all she needs to keep an aggressor from her shores.

Washington is more encouraged concerning British chances of eventually winning the war. Our future policy will probably be to give England almost anything she wants. There is little doubt that the laws preventing loans to England will be repealed when her cash runs out.

The suggestion, recently made by a British cabinet member, that the U. S. turn over to England, German and Italian ships which are tied up in our harbors, has caused a good deal of excitement in Berlin. Nazi officials say that that would be an act of war, and would be regarded as such. So far, our government has made no official comment on the proposal.

England's greatest danger now is destruction of her merchant shipping. The British Isles are consumers, not producers. Without ocean transport, they could sustain themselves for only a limited period of time. The German submarine and surface raider attack has been dangerously effective. It is likely that England will soon tell us that she needs freighters even more than she needs planes and guns and other implements of war.

Mr. and Mrs. George Marine, who traveled to the factory at South Bend after a new car, have returned home. Mr. Marine visited the place where he was born in Oklahoma. He also visited relatives in various places on the trip.

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SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
STATE OF OREGON FOR  
JACKSON COUNTY  
EVA LAFLEUR, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
RICHARD LAFLEUR, Jr., Defendant.  
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT, RICHARD LAFLEUR, Jr.:  
IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON, You are hereby required to appear and answer the Complaint filed against you in the above entitled suit on or before the last day of four weeks from the date of the first publication of this Summons, and, if you fail so to appear and answer said Complaint, for want thereof the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in her Complaint, succinctly stated as follows, to-wit:  
That the bonds of matrimony heretofore and now existing between Plaintiff and Defendant be dissolved and held for naught;  
For a further decree of this Court, restoring to Plaintiff her maiden name, to-wit, Eva Landing;  
For such other and further relief as to the Court may seem meet and equitable.  
This Summons is published by order of the Honorable H. D. Norton, Judge of the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Oregon, made and entered on the 17th day of December, 1940.  
The time prescribed for publication of this Summons is once each week for four consecutive weeks. The date of the first publication of this Summons is the 19th day of December, 1940.  
O. H. BENGTON,  
Attorney for Plaintiff.  
Post Office Address:  
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