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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

A NEW LESSON, AN OLD TRUTH

One lesson may be learned from this war. If it is well learned, victory will be permanent, and the fruits of peace will loom eternally. It is this: Real progress can only come from the labor of free men.

How often we have heard that simply statement, anathema to dictators! It is anathema to them, because they understand better than we ourselves exactly what it means. They know that their kind have slim pickings in a land of free men because free men will work to meet the demands of other free men. In a free country, government is merely an onlooker, demanding little except the power and wherewithal to enforce fair play.

Our whole system of free enterprise is founded on the demands of free men in a free country. When you as a private citizen demanded radios, you got them. When you demanded electric lights, you got them. The same was true of a thousand other luxuries and necessities which have been as common as dirt. You expressed your demands by buying a new product the instant it was put on the market by some enterprising individual. You continued to express your demands by looking tirelessly for the best at the cheapest price. Millions of businesses and industries have successfully striven to bring the miracles of science and invention to you, the citizen. They are the same private enterprises that you have often booed and kicked around these many years.

Here is where you, Mr. Citizen, may learn the most precious lesson of this war. Private enterprise is serving you no longer. It is serving our government so that our country may survive in a world where most governments have directed the labor of the masses for many years toward nothing more productive than military—the same years that American enterprise devoted to giving you a richer, fuller life.

In this world struggle we are of necessity building a gigantic government, a gigantic military machine. Our free enterprise system is busy catching up with the slaves of the dictatorships. Until the war is terminated successfully, you will do without the pampering that you have received from free enterprise. It will probably do you good. While you are deprived of many of the products of industry, you will learn what free American enterprise did for you in the past. If the lesson sinks in deeply enough, you may even learn that if you ever want free enterprise back, you will have to make it possible for it to come back.

The requisites of its return are few, but they will require the same toughness that is required to win the war. First, the evil of uncontrolled bureaucracy will have to be crushed. Second, the burden of taxation will have to be equitably distributed and a long-range program adopted to save this country from bankruptcy. Third, and most important, is the realization

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that we cannot maintain representative government without free enterprise—that unless free men can direct their energies to the betterment of life for other free men, as in the past, they will automatically be directed to the building of big government.

A permanent big government with millions of employees would spell the end of free men, free enterprise, free opportunity, representative government—the end of the things that millions of American men are preparing to fight and die for in every corner of the world.

STRANGE MEDICINE

One sometimes wonders what medicine is used to get rural communities that already have electric service, to vote to put themselves in debt to establish a rural electrification cooperative line.

A typical example has just occurred in Oregon. There are only 459 meters involved, scattered over a sparsely settled area covering widely separated towns. In addition to the taxes under which such an area already staggers, it would now burden itself with a \$182,500 obligation to buy the private lines over which it is already receiving service. On top of this, it would destroy a private tax-paying power unit.

Now it develops that the rates to be charged by this Rural Electrification Administration power district are higher than those charged by the private utility service which would be destroyed. This has caused the public service commissioner of Oregon to delay transfer of the properties to the public power district, as after a study of customers' meters, he finds that approximately 51 per cent of the present customers would be subject to possible increases in charges. He therefore requires that existing customers be not adversely affected by the change.

Wholly aside from the unsound policy of destroying private enterprise in this country, what possible compensating benefit can a community hope for when it votes out taxable assets, loads itself with public

debt, increases its tax burdens, gets no measurable reduction in rates, and actually faces rate increases? What hypnotic power is there in the socialist song that is sung to citizens, that causes them to vote to destroy their birthright of a free enterprise system?

This should be the last country on earth to promote such a program.

PUBLIC WASTE MUST BE STOPPED

The most telling criticism of the newly proposed Federal budget deals with projected expenditures for non-war activities. The budget calls for a cut of about \$1,000,000,000 a year in this direction. Many economists and high government officials are convinced that a reduction of at least double this amount can be made.

The taxpayers are being called upon to accept a financial burden unparalleled in our history. Last year's record-breaking income tax bill is supposed to produce an increase in tax revenue of some \$3,500,000,000 a year. This year, plans call for another bill to produce around \$9,000,000,000 additional. Every possible source of revenue will be tapped to the limit. With such a staggering sum to be raised for the nation's protection and survival, every conscientious citizen should protest the spending of a solitary tax nickel for any non-defense purpose which can be eliminated or deferred.

We are still spending hundreds of millions each year for "relief" at a time when the national income, because of the war boom, is at record levels, and an acute labor shortage is

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Imminent. We are spending more millions for a long list of "social" projects which divert money and energies from the grim job of winning the greatest war history has known. Throughout the country waste of public funds continues.

Story of African Rubber Plantation

(This letter was written by Mrs. J. J. Swain from Liberia, Africa to her mother, Mrs. E. E. Scott of this city. Mrs. Swain was the former Miss Mildred Burger.)

(Continued from Last Week)

December 12, 1941.

It seems that things are happening thick and fast in this world of ours and we have had our ears glued to the neighbors radio for the past several days getting all the information possible on world events. Our radio is on the fritz and is now being worked on by our Radio operator down here and we hope to have it back tomorrow or Sunday. Of course we were very upset, as everyone probably was, to hear of the war situation. We have listened to Roosevelt's speeches and all the commentators on the subject. Just so you won't worry too much about us I will tell you how the war is affecting us down here. I don't mention the war in my letters as there seems so little to say about it and I hate to take the risk of it being held up by censorship. Anyway, as far as we are concerned things are just the same now as when we landed here. We hear the war news and all other news but people talk about it down here the way the folks at home discuss the World Series Baseball games. I mean to say it is interesting but it is so far away from us that we don't feel any personal fear or concern, if I make my self clear.

Enough of the war. I must hasten in order to get a few short comments about several things I want to mention as it is getting later by the minute and tomorrow is another rush, pell-mell day at the office.

Incidentally Joe is having the battle of the century just now. He is trying to wrap up a box to send on this boat and Bozo, the cat, is trying to help him. I don't know which one is going to finally get hold of the string with which to tie it up. It goes back and forth but Bozo is sure holding his own. He is a lovely large house cat which we are taking care of for Charlotte and Pete Peterson. They left on the passenger liner S.S. Acadia on which our neighbor Ruth Hoque left on. Bozo is so huge and he is so playful that you have to duck when he starts tearing around through the house chasing imaginary objects. He walks around the rim

of the bath tub, then walks the back of all chairs, crawls into a drawer or anything else he sees which might interest him and is about the most curious thing I have seen, but we are crazy about him. He is a ship's cat and was brought to Charlotte by Captain Smith.

The box I mentioned for this boat has some Christmas gifts which will arrive late of course but which we hope will have the same meaning as if they arrived during the Christmas holidays. I am sending all the gifts to you in one box. Also some we wish to have you keep for us until we return home for we don't know what we will do with as yet. Please have all skins tanned. Ask about the raw snake skin whether it is necessary to tan it or not. Some people say it is and some say it is not necessary, since they claim they will only last a couple years anyway.

One package containing four purses (3 large, one small), one leather purse, three country cloths, one gird with beads, two walking sticks, three belts (inside purse)

One untanned snake skin—Python (a specie of the Boa Constructor)

One native drum.
One package containing seven Zebra Antelope skins, one leopard skin, one so-called "Golden Leopard" skin and one Hauser "tribe" tanned snake skin (Python).

One package containing three has-socks. One bedspread (Hauser Tribe made tapestry) and one Lagos cloth, yarn made from tree fibres and woven by hand.

A set of Bush Cow Horns.
Joe said you had better move into a larger house of the junk we are sending home would crowd you out of house and home.

All the purses and belts are made by the natives from raffa spun from bamboo trees and woven by hand on a primitive loom. The tooled leather wallet for Ernest Joe bought from a bush boy. They tan and tool the leather by hand and the dye used is from berks and herbs of different trees boiled and making different color tints.

The country cloths are made from cotton yarn made from native cotton grown in the back country and dyed as mentioned above. We are now trying to get some made from camels hair but they are difficult to secure and so far we have been unsuccessful.

They fade a bit in the sun out here but don't know if they will at home or not.

The so-called walking sticks are not used for walking but are called that out here. These two were made by my steward's boy's woman. The stick is bamboo and will bend and the beads are tediously strung by hand with out the use of a needle.

Johnny's woman also made or fixed the gourd with the blue beads for me. It is carried by the native dancing girls and they beat rhythm and turn and twist in their dance at the same time.

(To Be Continued)

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR JACKSON COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LOREN FOWLER, Deceased

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has filed her Final Report and Accounting in the above entitled matter, and the above titled Court has fixed the 14th day of February, 1942, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., in the court room of said Court in the Court House at Medford, Oregon, as the time and place for hearing objections to said Final Report and Accounting, if any there be, and the settlement thereof.

Dated and first published this 15th day of January, 1942.

AMELIA FOWLER,
Administratrix of the Estate of Loren Fowler, Deceased.

24—Jan. 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5.

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