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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor

Letter from Washington

By Harris Ellsworth

Things have quieted down here somewhat since the excitement of the veto messages on the labor bill and the tax bill. Committees are working feverishly to finish up and report high priority or urgent pieces of legislation. My own committee will shortly report the alien property bill designed to give aid to those who suffered property loss and personal injury while interned by the Japanese on the Philippine Islands. We expect also to report the National Science Foundation bill and several minor bills.

Action on the Floor of the House has been stepped up with several bills coming up for action each day. We have not yet completed all of the appropriation bills, but should be able to clear them by the end of the first week in July.

Most Members of Congress were disappointed by the President's 5,000 word veto message on the labor bill. The disappointment was not because the President chose to veto the bill—that was expected—but because the message disapproved and condemned every section of it, and apparently set up a bill of particulars for use in destroying the effectiveness of the law. Many Members with whom I have talked about it believe the President's veto message constituted a set of instructions to administrative officials to guide them in administering the law in as unworkable a manner as possible.

Congress devoted a great deal of time to the preparation and consideration of the labor bill. I have studied it very carefully and am convinced that it is not a vicious anti-labor law as advertised by its opponents, but is a reasonable, sound and workable piece of legislation. There may be some defects in it, and some amendments to it may be necessary. Our system of representative government is successful for the reason that laws can always be changed and improved when necessary. Four out of five of the Members of Congress, both House and Senate, approved the bill which fact, I think, indicates that it was a pretty good bill. However, the labor bill is now the law of the land. The national interest will be served best by a spirit

of cooperation on the part of all concerned toward making it work successfully.

My attention has been called to the fact that only a few more than half of the veterans of World War II, who are eligible to receive terminal leave pay, have made application for it. The law provides that applications must be made before September 1, 1947—only about sixty days from now. I suggest this information be passed along to all veterans, urging them to make their applications immediately. It is predicted that the terminal leave pay bonds will fairly soon be paid in cash. Legislation to accomplish this is now pending, and from the talk I hear among Members of Congress, this bill will probably pass.

Robert Todd Lincoln died on July 26, 1926. On July 26 of this year, 21 years after his death, three safes in the Library of Congress will be opened and the information made available to the public. A man by the name of Horace G. Young of Albany, New York, and Dr. Butler of Columbia University, in visiting with Robert Lincoln in the early 20's begged him not to destroy these papers, which he was planning to burn. For some reason, Robert Lincoln did not want the papers made public during his lifetime. At his request and direction, the papers were delivered to the Library of Congress and the safes were to be held unopened until 21 years after his death. Students of the life of Lincoln do not believe that this will bring to light many startling new facts about the Civil War President. They do contend that it will give much new information on interpreting the events of the Civil War period and concerning the personalities of Lincoln's time.

The American Way

OUR SCHOOLS
By George Peck

There seems to be something definitely wrong with our present-day educational system. Most certainly our public schools, our high schools and colleges are not turning out the safe high grade students they did a generation ago.

A business man, with whom I talked, has perhaps diagnosed the trouble. Each year his company finds it necessary to take on an additional number of young men. He was quite depressed about the quality of applicants in recent years. He said:

"Most of the boys who apply here for jobs these days are totally unfitted and untrained. Our schools, at least those in my city, have ceased to turn out self-reliant students. We want boys to enter the employ of our company who have initiative and imagination and who can figure out things for themselves."

"But our schools seem to be going in the opposite direction in training our youth. The child is taught to look to his teacher for the method of doing things, even for the way he should think about them. The pupil is taught to memorize and not to think. The net result is that when boys enter our employ, we really have to start their education. This is particularly unfortunate because not only our company but nearly all companies are crying out for young men able to take responsibility, possessing sound judgment and real imagination."

This could be the answer as to why so many of our young people are experiencing difficulty in finding suitable jobs. Many of our educators do not seem to be disturbed about this situation; they simply shrug their shoulders and say that if there are not suitable jobs available to the young, they should be kept just so much longer in school.

Such policy, of course, has resulted in larger enrollments and crowding in our schools; has necessitated more class rooms and more teachers. It almost leads one to wonder whether our schools are run for the benefit of the teachers or of the pupils. Needless to say, and this is rather important, it adds to an already top-heavy tax burden.

Even as recently as a generation ago, most of our young people were through with their schooling at 13 or 14 years of age. They then went to work and our standard of living was constantly rising. Let it not be argued that this was possible then because of our unexploited natural resources. We still have them plus

synthetic resources greater than anything we have known in the past. Undoubtedly schooling should not be finished at age 13 or 14. But the point is, are the extra years of school attendance fitting the pupils to be more useful citizens? The business man quoted is convinced that they are not doing so; that our present-day educational system is smothering the initiative so necessary to maintain a free economy. Can it be that our educational methods are simply serving to equip our children to be slaves of a totalitarian government, under which they will be told what to do and when and how to do it?

For 150 years, due in no small degree to the training of our young in our schools, we developed a people who relied upon themselves; and whose courage and spirit of enterprise built the greatest nation of free people in all the world's history. Today, due in large degree to faulty teaching in our schools, we are developing into a nation that looks to government in every extremity, forgetting that in a Republic, we ourselves are the government and should take care of ourselves.

Education we know is good—is essential, but it looks as though our present educational methods are failing to develop young men and women with independence of thought and integrity of character. Take a look at the schools and school teachers in your community. If they are falling down on the job of turning out good Americans, then do something about it. You can do something about it, if you have the will to do it.

C. L. Perkins
Doctor of Optometry

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NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of July 1947 at 10:00 A.M., at the front door of the Courthouse in Medford, Jackson County, Oregon, I will sell at public auction for cash to the highest bidder, all of the right, title and interest of Reese V. Gentry and Pearl E. Gentry in and to the following described real property, situated in Jackson County, Oregon, to-wit:

Lot Number Three (3) in Block Number Six (6), of the Highland Park Addition to the City of Medford, Oregon, as the same is numbered, designated and described on the official plat thereof, now of record, in Jackson County, Oregon. Said sale is made pursuant to an

execution in foreclosure issued out of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon on the 6th day of June 1947, in a certain suit therein, wherein Jackson County Federal Saving and Loan Association is Plaintiff and Reese V. Gentry and Pearl E. Gentry are defendants.

HOWARD GAULT, Sheriff
29—June 12, 19, 26 and July 3

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