

BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

BUSINESS OFFICE AND PLANT PHONE BEAVERTON 2321
Plant located in Beaverton—Tualatin Valley Highway and Short St.

Published Friday of each week by The Pioneer Publishing Co. at Beaverton, Oregon. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office Beaverton, Oregon.

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WITHOUT WILL TO FIGHT

The dominant thought around which the foreign policy of the United States seems built is to the effect that we should get a headstart on the next world war by arming some of the allies of the previous two. Having served as the "arsenal of Democracy" in the past, we seem to pursue the idea of spreading our arms and implements of war now, in time of relative peace, to avoid any great, immediate conquest by sudden invasion.

To deny the obvious interpretation of the Marshall Plan, of course, is to invite derision. But what has not been satisfactorily explained is whether or not there might be a more rewarding policy in foreign affairs.

To take the opinion of B. C. Linde, for long a reader of this column, is to strengthen a logical conviction that the arms program in Europe is not the plump promise it seems.

Mr. Linde has just returned from an intensive trip through France, Holland, Germany, Austria and other parts of the continent. And what he saw and what he learned did not cure him of a dread pessimism in regard to the arms to Europe program.

What seemed most impressive to him was the feeling held by many Europeans that all the munitions in the world would not give them the desire to fight. There is bitterness and a disillusionment as to the gains to be had from fighting even another destructive war.

Mtaters of policy are generated from a familiar point of view projected into a foreign field. In two far-flung, world-wide wars, the United States has lost many men and many dollars. But to a large degree, we have suffered no amount as compared to Europe. True, there are evidences of our war effort scattered across the entire nation. Huge, well-built factories, crumbling in neglect and disuse. Less imposing housing projects, some of them empty and some of them falling apart by their use beyond the span intended. Hospital beds with the never-ending shadows of pain and wasted lives, where a number of veterans are paying a price for war.

But even in the bleakest, most dreary aspect, there are not miles and miles of bomb-seared countryside. There are not vast populations living in fear of hunger and the future. Nor the lurking paralysis of hope, the ogre-like doubts that impede reconstruction and restrict recovery.

Perhaps to the men who make munitions or who have spent their maturity in either fighting a war or preparing to fight the next one, there is no language as pertinent and as satisfying as guns and bombs and tanks and cannons. But let them remember who is paying for this broadcast of arms. And let them reckon the advantages.

If shipping arms across the Atlantic would save us from the consequences of the next world war, we should be happy to endorse the idea. But the arms will be of no avail if those who receive them are without the will to fight.

DIVIDENDS OF FORESIGHT

During the current week, attention is being focused on fire prevention through a national "week" designated by presidential proclamation. But it does not take the weighted words of a government leader to bring home the idea to most of us.

Fire is one of man's most valued servants, when under control. But when it leaps out of control, it is a forerunner of destruction; it takes lives as easily as it consumes property.

Before this week is finished, city residents and rural dwellers alike should make an intensive search of their properties to ferret out any potential conditions that might lead to the tragedy of fire.

Here in the Tualatin Valley, there are at least four well-manned and equipped fire departments, Beaverton, Multnomah, Cedar Mill and Tualatin—not counting Aloha's young volunteer truck. Time after time these trucks and the men who man them have responded with speed and efficiency to the alarms of fire. They have saved lives and prevented the loss of property, sometimes unsung but in a large measure depended upon upon as the safeguards they are.

But it is folly to disregard hazards around the home merely because there is a willing, efficient fire department within call. A fire department, no matter how aggressively it attends to its business, can only control a fire after they have reached it and many things can go amiss in making the report.

Figures on the country as a whole show that some 3,500 farm residents die in fires each year while some 10,000 others are injured to some degree. Damage to property amounts to about \$100 million.

Damage to insured city and farm homes

in Oregon during the year 1947 was set at \$3,000,000, underlining the practical value of fire prevention.

Most of the common fire hazards include faulty chimneys, flues, improperly stored oil and gasoline, open fires, defective wiring and spontaneous combustion. All of them are complicated by neglect and carelessness. The majority of all fires might have been prevented.

A bit of foresight and inspection will pay dividends.

PRAISE UPON SUCCESS

Unto a man of great accomplishments will come even another honor, on the afternoon of October 15.

Verne Bright, Aloha poet, whose book-length poem "Mountain Man" was published in 1948 and had been called the best production of that kind ever written west of the Mississippi, will be among three distinguished alumni of Pacific university who will receive an honorary doctorate.

Graduating with high honors in 1925, Bright worked for a while on the old Beaverton Review. He led a class in composition and short story writing at Pacific for one year, was state editor of the Oregon Writers' project and of the Historical Records survey and engaged in free-lance writing of poetry, juvenile stories and articles.

It is particularly fitting that a man of letters, who has come upon his skill and fame through hard work and conscientious study, should be so honored. The rewards of poetry writing are greatest in the individual satisfaction the worker of words accomplishes, up to the point where the poet so perfects his style that he gains rewards of substance and honor.

And so, we too, would like to recognize the achievement of Verne Bright and add our word to the praises that are his now, upon the occasion of his success.

DEPENDS WHERE IT'S GOING

Upon the already troubled scene of Germany, where the tug of war between the East and the West has resulted in events that baffled and confused, there has come another state, reportedly sponsored and midwifed by the Soviet Union. What this will mean, many conjecture but none can be sure.

Under the broad objectives current during the peace-planning phases of the recent world war, the concept was widely publicized that the people of the world would be given every assistance to choose governments of their own likings, based upon an unprompted election by the majority. One of the aims of the war effort, as so charted at the time, it was pictured as a guarantee against oppression and of bondage.

Whether or not it can measure up to all or any of the broad outlines once projected, the communist-fostered German state will not be much of an answer for the future, it seems evident. If it is the forerunner to a prosperous, well-ordered state which will help lead Germany and the rest of Europe out of its wilderness, there will be occasion for rejoicing. But the odds are high against it.

Major test of what this new state will contribute to Europe is if it fosters cooperation and a desire to pull together for self-preservation of the continent.

Again it seems an ideal development were the many and varied states in Europe to meet on a common ground of understanding and by a part of one sort or another lay broad plans for moving in the direction of self-sufficiency. This need not necessarily be a formal federation or union, but the concept in European recovery should go beyond nationalistic boundaries for full European recovery.

As to the advantages to Russia in another sponsored state near its boundary, any political force which sets up a government at all representative of the people within the affected area finds innumerable problems that multiply, rather than diminish, as time goes on. Control of a resentful, uncooperative area can be painfully unprofitable.

Perhaps the new German state offers the people a political vehicle. But so much depends on where it is going.

RELIGION'S SUPREME TEST

"Religion must be used in furthering great works of justice and reform. It must be used to establish right relations between different groups of men, and thus to make a reality of brotherhood. It must be used to abolish poverty, the breeding ground of all misery and crime, by distributing equably among men the abundance of the soil."

"Here is the supreme test of the effectiveness of religion."
—Dr. John Haynes Holmes, veteran New York clergyman.

Legislature Had Vacation On Pay To Put In Harvest

BIG WRANGLE OVER DONATION LANDS FEATURED
MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS WHICH DELEGATE LOST

By Hervey S. Robinson

Any reader who has additional information on names, places or events covered by Mr. Robinson are invited to write the newspaper. In this way, a more complete historical series will be possible.
Address letters to Hervey S. Robinson, c/o Beaverton Enterprise, Beaverton, Oregon.

(Continued from last week)

The subject of the settlers' donation land claims plagued the minds of legislators at the opening of the Territorial Legislature in 1849, to the practical exclusion of every other subject. Congress had canceled their claims, taken under the laws of the provisional government and transferred it to the public domain, subject to the disposition of Congress, and all the settlers could do about it was to memorialize Congress on the subject.

Referring to this subject in his message to the Legislature Governor Lane had said, "In regard to the donation of land, the people of Oregon have long been kept in suspense. They believe that the faith of the government is virtually pledged to a grant of land to each settler who has made a location and improved it."

"The immediate attention of Congress should be called to the subject and their early and favorable action requested."

The governor also mentioned other matters as subjects for inclusion in such a memorial, setting forth the needs of the Territory.

Briefly stated they were: "the extinguishment by purchase of the Indian title to lands adjacent to the settlements on the Willamette and Columbia rivers, and the locating of the native tribes in a district removed from the settlements; the opening of navigation of the Columbia river by the construction of canals and locks and an increase in appropriations for erecting light-houses and construction of buoys to indicate the channels at the mouth of the river and the approaches to Astoria; the appropriation by Congress of funds to defray the expense of the Cayuse War and the construction of a military road from Chehalis to the Columbia and from The Dalles to the Willamette Valley."

The preparation of the memorial engrossed the attention of the assembly for the better part of two weeks, during which time but little else was accomplished.

On the same day that the message was delivered, Wilson Blain of Tuality and Wesley Shannon of Champog were appointed by the council, a committee of two to act with a similar committee from the House in drafting a memorial to Congress.

The next day, when the House named a committee of eight, one from each representative district or county, "to draw up memorials to Congress, relative to the interests and promotion of the citizens of Oregon Territory," the council rescinded its action and decided to go it alone. It added a third member to its own committee, W. B. Maley of Linn county and referred such portions of the governor's message as dealt with memorializing Congress to this committee.

The council's committee must have had a draft already prepared for it presented one almost at once and the council resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider it. After some time the com-

mittee of the whole rose, reported progress and the memorial was referred back to the committee that composed it with instructions.

There is no record that the House committee ever drew up a memorial of its own. It merely awaited the submission of the council's draft for House approval. On the 20th the council's memorial was passed and sent to the House for approval. It was returned five days later, with sundry amendments and a request for "concurrence therein."

The council tabled the memorial until the 27th when the council, upon motion of Mr. Blain, refused to concur in the House amendments and named two members for a "committee of conference" with the House to iron out the differences.

Blain, who as chairman of the council's committee on memorials had prepared the first draft of the memorial got himself appointed to the committee along with Nathaniel Ford of Polk county. He then offered a series of resolutions instructing himself and Ford not to recede from the council's stand against some of the House amendments which had sought to modify the conditions prescribed for taking and holding donation claims.

The original draft would have limited claimants to "American citizens." The house changed it to read "actual settlers" in order to permit former British citizens who had taken the oath of allegiance to the United States and were awaiting the opportunity to complete their naturalization might be protected in their rights. Blain and his anti-British, Catholic baiting backers demanded and secured the restoration of the original clause.

The committee was further instructed to adhere in conference to "so much of the council's memorial as relates to land and land claims" including the right of a claimant who had filed on any part of the two sections in each township set apart by the Organic Act for school purposes to hold his claim and have the school reserve compensated by an equal amount of land in another location.

They were also to adhere to the concluding clause of the memorial called for an increased appropriation for improvements at the mouth of the Columbia river.

At Mr. Blain's proposals were incorporated into the memorial as finally adopted by a "yea and nay" vote on the afternoon of July 27. The House concurred and on July 28 the president of the council was authorized to place the memorial in the hands of the delegate to Congress and request him to lay it before that body.

Both houses then voted themselves a vacation on pay until the 20th of August to go home and take care of the harvest.

Thurston departed from Oregon City for Washington on August 10. He lost his baggage enroute and Congress never saw the memorial as drafted by the legislature. However, with characteristic resourcefulness, he prepared one of his own which probably served just as well.

It was just after the legislature had finished their vacation and returned to their job that Courtney M. Walker wrote from Oregon City to his friend J. W. Nesmith at Nesmith's mill on the Rickreall: "So far in the Legislative Assembly no bills have come to final passage, except the memorial to Congress and one to authorize the governor to call elections. Some hundreds are progressing slowly to final passage. I do not suppose, unless they adopt some expeditious method of going on, that they will be able to get through in the time limited by law."

(Continued next week)

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

But Curly "Knows What The Score Is!"

Was over at Doc Sherman's drug store listening to the World Series on the radio. Curly Lawson wanders in and says: "How about a chocolate malted, Doc?"

"Sorry, Curly," says Doc, "can't make you a malted for a while yet." "What's the idea?" Curly asks. "Well," says Doc, "most of the folks want to hear the game and the mixer makes too much noise." Curly thinks a moment and says, "Okay with me, Doc—I'll take a chocolate soda!"

This shows how tolerant folks can be. Doc showed his respect for law."

how the majority felt; Curly was big enough not to insist on his malted even though he doesn't happen to be fond of baseball.

From where I sit, willingness to respect the other people's feelings is important in a Democracy. If we're tolerant of a person's like for baseball or a glass of temperate beer, we've come a long way on the right road... the road to a better America, that is!

Joe Marsh

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