

SOUTHERN OREGON MINER

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CLOSING THE RACETRACKS

The first of the year, government orders came to close the race tracks of the country, on the plea that the war plants needed the manpower that was interested in running the tracks. But if we read the indications aright, it was not the men engaged in operating the tracks, the owners of horses and dogs, and others who hang on at the racetracks that the government was so much interested in, as it was that the racetracks were drawing men and women away from their war plant jobs, to bet their swollen incomes from those war plants on the dogs and horses. Despite all the publicity put out by the federal government, absenteeism continues at a high rate in those areas where some such for mof diversion is to be found, and much of it although not all of it by any means, is traceable to the fact that men and women are at the tracks to bet on the races.

But one factor in the closing down of the tracks that perhaps is not taken into consideration by everyone is the revenue the state and federal government derived from the operation of those tracks. We read but a few days ago, that in Florida the state will lose something like six million dollars with the closing down of the tracks. The state's very economy is no doubt based on getting that money out of the race tracks, and the legislature will have to find other means of getting it. In Oregon a sizeable amount will be lost to the public coffers from the close down order.

It would seem to us that the government order to stop racing, just to stop absenteeism from war plants, is the wrong way to go about the matter. And we do not mean to imply that we are defending racing either. But war workers are not apt to stay on the job, just because the race tracks close down, if that is the story, for if they have no more interest than that in their jobs it will take some other means of keeping them on the job. We do not know the answer to the qesteion, either.

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SCHOOL FIRE DRILLS

Several weeks ago a Portland grade school building burned to the ground, a complete loss as far as the building was concerned, but with not a single loss of life as the some four hundred or more small grade school youngsters were marched out to safety i. the matter of seconds, and most of them did not even know there was a fire in the building until they were safely outside.

All too many times school fires have taken a ghastly toll in young lives lost, and no doubt many times is traceable to a lack of fire drills, teachers and school executives, becoming panic stricken.

But in this case, the drills were perfectly executed and all of the children were marched to safety from a building, reportedly old and a fire hazard of a serious kind. The teachers and school executives are indeed to be congratulated on their fine work in getting the little tots to safety.

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THE WANDERING GYPSIES

News has centered recently on the efforts of Portland to get rid of a band of gypsies, and enough gas was wheeled out of the OPA to get the band to Texas. Now Texas has come up with a strong disapproval of the plan, and no doubt will make some arrangement to get them back into some other state, even maybe Oregon.

All of this leads up to the question of why the Gypsies are pushed around from city to city, from state to state, a people without a home. There are many stories we have heard, telling about how the gypsies are so sticky fingered that everything has to be kept under lock when they are about, how they have "slickered" people out of their money by various tricks, etc., until they have a most unsavory reputation, and no one wants them. They indeed get the "bums rush" when they appear.

But perhaps the most damaging thing against them is that they are carefree, wandering race of people, without a home, without a job, and without a trade or any means of really making themselves a living as we see it. They are not asimibde into our present day way of living, and because of this are really outcasts. Their life is not enviable.

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On the front pages for some time has been the trial of a British subject who made millions in this country without ever bohring to become a citizen. We refer to Charlie Chaplin.

Some of the testimony has been very amusing. Most amusing of all for us was something the judge said to the jurors. Berry's attorney had called Chaplin a "lecherous, pestiferous liar," a "libidinous and lascivious Lothario," and a "cheap and contuma ceous Cockney cad". Chaplin's attorney asked the judge to instruct the jury to ignore all such name-calling.

But the jurge said no. He told the jury to regard all those epithets merely as the "exuberance of counsel."

'Dragon Seed' at Varsity, Sun. Mon. Tue.



Katharine Hepburn and Turhan Bey in a scene from "Dragon Seed," based on the novel by Pearl S. Buck, with Walter Huston and Alice MacMahon.

That's one of the funniest thing we have ever read. From now on we shall understand that if an attorney calls a defendant a liar, thief, brigand, bum, and braggart, he is only being exuberant. What on exuberant world!

Idaho Daily Statesman

Have We Kept Faith?

By Ruth Taylor

In this war, as in all ideological conflicts, each participant has talked much of its past. Each nation has boasted of its culture and of the high level of its civilization. Each group has bragged of the accomplishments of its forerunners. But no one seems to have remembered that the culture of each, the civilization of each, is no greater than that displayed by the generation coming up.

If we of the present generation do not retrace the lessons of the past, so that the next generation may profit by them; if we do not add to the culture we have received so that the coming generation can in turn build on it, then of what avail is the past?

No nation, no group is entitled to be judged on the brave deeds of its ancestors. It must be judged on the actions of the present and the promise of te future.

Of what good was the storied art of Italy, when a people weakened by dependance on the past let in the Fascist ideology, that destroyer of the democratic ideal that had been the glory of Rome, and of which Virgil had sung?

Of what good was the world-loved music of Germany, when a people, too pride-bound to face the facts, drowned out that music with the screams of tortured thousands?

Of what good was the boasted sun-god lineage of the Japanese when their cohesive strength was used to law waste peaceful lands and enslave millions of their fellow Asiatics?

Of what good is the thrift and courage and steadfastness of the pioneers who founded America, to those who carp and cavil at every restriction, at every inroad upon their accustomed manner of living?

Of what good are the high sounding phases of the Constitution to those who here in our free United States deny equality of opportunity to all Americans, who condemn groups en masse, who spread the lies and prejudices which the Founding Fathers thought had been left behind in the old World from which they fled?

It isn't what we were. It is what we are, and what the next generation will be that really matters. And what they will be starts with us and the example and precept we give them.

Have we kept faith with the past? Will we keep faith with the future? That is the challenge! We are the link in the chain upon which the strain now rests. Will we hold, as did those before us? It is the present that counts.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

by Harry Ellsworth
Representative in Congress
from Oregon

Reaction to news, especially war news, here in Washington is always swift and sometimes drastic. If the trend of news is good, there immediately follows a spirit of optimism and optimistic prediction. Last summer when the war was running heavily in our favor, discussions had to do with post-war plans, reconversion and re-employment.

Lately the news has been discouraging. Not only has the news from the European war front been bad, but the development of our relations with our Allies has been disturbing. Even the civilian front here has taken some

minor beatings, what with very little gasoline, few cigarettes, and the cancellation of carefully saved ration points. Consequently, this has been the gloomiest Christmas season in Washington, D. C. since the Civil War.

Perhaps the greatest shock here—apparently even a greater shock than the news of the German offensive—was the statement by the President that the Atlantic Charter does not exist—that it was just some "scraps of paper". Noticeable evidence of shock was in the Senate debate on the confirmation of new assistants for the Secretary of State Former stalwart New Dealers and Administration "yes men" were heard to question the President's foreign policy and even voice criticism of it, or to be more specific, criticism because our foreign policy is not defined.

From the bad war news comes a noticeable trend to give the War Department almost complete control of the War Production Board. Previous decisions regarding increased production of civilian goods have been voided.

The organization of the House of Representatives is almost the same for this Congress as for the one just ended (78th). The principal difference is that Democratic control is more definite. During the 78th Congress, the majority of the Democrats was so thin that their control of the House was never certain. During the last six months, the margin of difference was less than half a dozen. Now, however, the margin is 40 which appears to be ample for the purpose of giving the Administration whatever legislation it desires.

During 1945 Oregon's \$42,000,000 road program for the first three post-war years will be one of the State's most important planning activities. Under Federal Highway Aid legislation passed late in the last Congress, the apportionment for Oregon, soon to be made, will be \$7,085,000 for

each of the three years, or a total of \$21,255,000. The State matches federal funds on a 50-50 basis.

The annual apportionment of federal funds provides \$3,729,000 for federal aid highways, \$2,545,000 for secondary and farm to market roads, and \$811,000 for highway improvements within urban areas. The funds allocated for secondary roads may be used for improvement of such roads in towns and villages of 5000 population or less. A maximum of 10 per cent of any of the three allocations may be used for grade crossing elimination.

City, county, and state officials will work together in formulating the program for the state. State officials will submit the plan to the Federal Bureau of Public Roads for final approval. State highway officials have been unable to plan any broad program for the post-war period in the past. The new law makes possible a complete program which can be started immediately when the war ends.

All unremarried widows of World War 1 veterans may now apply for \$35 per month pension under law passed late in the last session of Congress. Previously, pensions were paid only to those widows showing that the veteran had service incurring disability.

To qualify, the widow must show that she is unremarried, that the veteran had not less than 90 days service with honorable discharge, and that her income is less than \$1,000 per year if she has no children, and less than \$2500 if there are children. To the base pension of \$35 is added \$10 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child. I will be

glad to send application forms and information to any person on request.

Ration Reminders

Meats, Fats—Red Stamps Q5 through X5 good indefinitely. No new stamps until January 28.

Processed Foods—Blue Stamps X5 through Z5; A2 through G2 good indefinitely. No new blue stamps will be validated until February 1.

Sugar—Sugar Stamp 34 good for five pounds indefinitely. No new stamp until February 1.

Fuel Oil—East and Far West 1 and 2 period coupons good indefinitely. Period 3 coupons in East will be come good on January 15. Period 3 coupon in Far West will become good on January 8. Midwest and South periods 1, 2 and 3 coupons good throughout heating year.

Shoes—Airplane Stamps 1, 2, and 3, in Book Three, good indefinitely.

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