

Heppner Gazette Times

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WHY WORRY NOW?

Why all the hullabaloo about Russia's plans for the future? Isn't she putting up a whale of a fight right now? At least every Russian has a job to do and if there are speechmakers running around over there stirring up sentiment over what the democracies plan to do after peace comes, it is not being circulated by the press and the radio. With a powerful, ruthless enemy still in control of a generous slice of the homeland, the Russians have no time to listen to oratory—they have a job to do now or their future will be bad, very, very bad.

If the vice president and some of the other "future" worriers would devote more time to war work and less time to oratory they would be taken a bit more seriously by the men and women in the factory and on the farm. Our worry right now is to win the war, win it decisively, so that we will have something to say about the kind of world we will live in when peace comes. The men of Guadalcanal and the other far-flung outposts know what they are fighting for, and their thoughts on peacetime conditions of the future may not exactly coincide with those of the starry-eyed dreamers.

It would appear that the self-appointed future history makers can best serve in the present crisis by sparing the oratory and expending their surplus energies in raising Victory gardens.

AN OBJECT LESSON

Advocates of peacetime laws to kill competition in retailing, should now look about them. Competition has been definitely ended, as a war measure. Instead of trying to attract business, the average merchant has to discourage it in his attempt to comply with price regulations and other restrictions which became inevitable when the natural laws of supply and demand, and free competition, were suspended.

The new system has been cheerfully accepted because war made it necessary. Out of this necessity, we will gain valuable experience. We will have a practical example of how restricted competition immediately reacts on the consumer.

Under peacetime competitive retailing, consumers were able to buy what they wanted, when they wanted it, at reasonable prices. Their standards of living rose year by year. The establishments in which they made their purchases steadily became more attractive and sanitary. Service became better. These things the public came to take for granted without realizing that they would not have occurred but for the magic of wholesome competition which is the handmaiden of progress.

The war emergency should warn all

of us against peacetime crippling of competition. When peace returns, the free competitive system should be restored. Frozen prices mean frozen progress—that is now being proven.

NO ACT OF GOD

No tales of fuel shortage have been brought back from the fighting fronts. In spite of disruptions in the transport system and the loss of priceless oil fields to the enemy in various parts of the world, together with shattering changes in production methods, the oil industry has managed to produce the gas and lubricants needed by the armed forces. Not a single tank, plane, ship or truck has failed to move for lack of fuel. This fact should give comfort to every citizen, for oil is vital to victory. And the American oil industry has proven that it is equal to the demands of military necessity.

Increased output of 100 octane gasoline stirred Secretary of the Interior Ickes to remark: "I wish that I might make public, as a tribute to your industry, the present production of 100 octane, because it represents a near miracle, the proportions of which cannot, unfortunately, be appreciated by anyone who does not understand the intricacy of the refinery equipment which is necessary and the complications of process involved."

It was an act of God which gave our nation her vast oil reserves. But no act of God makes that oil available for our use. The latter was done solely through the efforts of men who dared to take risks, men who strove to build and to produce under the stimulant of possible profit. They were encouraged in their activities by a government and a people with boundless faith in the competence of individuals. The performance of the oil industry in time of national emergency has justified their faith. It was built by individuals.

WHY NOT TELL ALL?

Recently, the Secretary of the Interior of the United States, in publicizing the federal government's Bonneville-Grand Coulee electric system, said: "It is no idle assertion to say that the great war output from the Northwest—planes, metals, chemicals and ships—virtually would have been impossible had it not been for this progressive power system."

It would have been more gracious and accurate if the Secretary had added that without the generating capacity of private electric companies throughout the United States which furnish upwards of 90 percent of the electric power required by our country, the war output of the nation would actually have been impossible, and that in the Pacific Northwest, without the private electric companies the war program would have been stymied. Also, the private electric companies are furnishing hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue to help maintain our government and war activities, while federally-owned and operated plants are tax exempt, thereby adding to the tax load the hard-pressed general taxpayer must carry.

It would have been good sportsmanship for the secretary to have said that in sections where no federally-owned power plants have been built, private electric companies have met the full war load and production has not been retarded for lack of electric power. A public official is supposed to represent all the people and he should not be biased in giving them the facts.

RESIGNS AT BANK

Jack Van Winkle closed his work at the First National Bank of Portland, Heppner branch, Saturday and has taken a job at the W. C. Van Winkle farm in lower Clarks canyon. Jack and Mrs. Van Winkle will retain their home in Heppner but they will be doing their bit to help boost farm production for the duration.

IN HOSPITAL

Mrs. Lucy Rodgers, county school superintendent, has been confined at Heppner hospital since last Thursday. She was suffering from a severe cold and throat condition

and has been quite ill.

CLUB MEETING SLATED—

Business and Professional Women's club will meet Tuesday evening March 16, for potluck at the E. R. Huston home.

BEATRICE THOMSON WEDS J. EDWARD BENNETT

Although announcements have not been received, the Gazette Times has been reliably informed that Miss Beatrice Thomson, daughter of Mrs. Anna Q. Thomson of Heppner, became the bride of J. Edward Bennett in a ceremony in St. Thomas Episcopal church, Washington, D. C., Sunday, Feb. 28.

ATTENTION Dog Owners

Due to the extreme urge and necessity for Victory Gardens, dog owners are requested to prevent their dogs from running at large in the city this spring and summer. When complaint has been made to city police against any dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, the police will give the owner 5 days notice to keep the dog off the streets and if this notice is not complied with, the police are instructed to dispose of such dog.

Also, all cow and horse permits must be renewed by paying the recorder the \$1.00 fee if the privilege is to be continued.

By Order of the City Council

Professional Directory

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Trained Nurse Assistant
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	Bod. Inj.	Pr. Dam.
Class A	6.30	5.10
Class B	7.00	5.44
Class C	9.80	6.80

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Wednesday-Thursday-Friday
SERVICE
HEPPNER CLEANERS

Phelps Funeral Home

Licensed Funeral Directors
Phone 1332 Heppner, Ore.

Heppner City Council

Meets First Monday Each Month
Citizens having matters for discussion, please bring before the Council.
J. O. TURNER, Mayor

Jos. J. Nys

ATTORNEY AT LAW
Peters Building, Willow Street
Heppner, Oregon

Dr. W. H. Rockwell

Naturopathic
Physician & Surgeon
Gilman Bldg.
Office hours: 1 p. m. to 7:30 p. m.
Exam free Ph. 522 Heppner, Or.

J. O. Turner

ATTORNEY AT LAW
Phone 177
Hotel Heppner Building
Heppner, Oregon

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