

**Heppner Gazette Times**

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O. G. CRAWFORD, Publisher and Editor  
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**We Are Still Lagging**

Some improvement was recorded in bond purchases during the past week and it can be stated that the half-way mark has been passed by a small margin. This has encouraged bond officials in the belief that our people are waking up and at the same time they point to the fact that the half-way mark is the easiest to accomplish—the hard grind is ahead in making up the second half of the quota.

The next move in the drive is personal solicitation. This will involve more effort than the committee had looked forward to, but it seems inevitable that a house-to-house canvass will have to be unfortunate inasmuch as we are faced with an im-made if the total amount is to be raised. This is mediate curtailment of gasoline and it should not be necessary to burn extra gas in order to put Morrow county over the top.

Last week Morrow was seventh in line among the counties of the state in point of bond sales. What the status is this week has not been revealed but judging from reports coming in from other sections it is not so favorable. Some of the smaller counties are out in the lead, and one of them, a thinly settled central Oregon county, completed its campaign by the end of the first week. Jefferson, with scarcely half the population of Morrow, and with not nearly the resources of this county, has not held back. Jefferson's quota was not as large as Morrow's, although the pro rata basis doubtless is the same. It is doubtful if the corporation purchases there have been any heavier than here. This brings the comparison down to individual purchases in which we appear to be coming out second best.

If we have been waiting for something to jar us out of our lethargy, is not the report on Japanese atrocities sufficient cause for us to pour our money out generously? Can we stand the thought of countless other American youths facing this inhuman enemy without sufficient equipment to not only defend themselves but to wipe that enemy off the face of the earth? Let us mull these facts over a bit and then go to the bank or post-office and make our purchases — more than we had contemplated.

Back the attack! Buy bonds to the limit!

**West Faces New Problems**

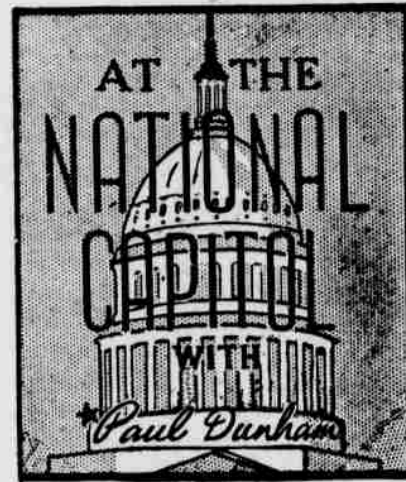
More than two years of fighting the Japs has taught us that the little brown men comprise a

formidable enemy and that they are fighting with a purpose, main objective of which is the extermination of the white race, if such a move is considered necessary for them to accomplish their mission of world domination. It has taken a costly war for us to realize the ambitions of the Japanese war lords and now, with our forces on the offensive, we have the courage to think a little on the question of what will be our status after the war is won.

Unless the Japanese war machine is completely crushed and the national spirit so broken that it will require several generations to recover, we can look for another war as soon as preparations can be made for it. It is the Japanese conception that they are destined to rule the world and it takes more than defeat in battle to convince them that are not a super race. This has special significance for the Pacific coast, which already has experienced unpleasant contacts with the enemy before he was rated as such, and which in all likelihood would be the point of attack in an attempted invasion. This entire coastal area and the other are rich in undeveloped resources which appeal to states embraced in the "eleven western states" any foreign people possessed of covetous desires.

The time has arrived in our national history when the great west must be really developed. Water power will be a factor in establishing new industries utilizing the products of mine, field and forest. This region, for the sake of national defense, must no longer be dependent upon the east for essentials such as figure in the present conflict. It will not be a chamber of commerce sales talk that will sell the west. It will be a matter of necessity. Instead of shipping raw products elsewhere in the country for processing, there will be conversion points in the western states, plants that may readily be transformed into munitions and materiel factories if need be. The proper location of these industries will alleviate the transportation problem and even if there is no occasion for converting to a war basis there will be a more equitable distribution of wealth.

Methods of converting products of the soil here in Morrow county would aid in disposing of surplus crops. Coal in the Blue mountains, if not available in sufficient quantities for fuel, might provide the basis for chemical enterprises, and our timber should be manufactured to the finished product stage. The field is almost unlimited if we but set our attention to the study of our surroundings.



WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 3.

WHILE members of the north-west delegations in congress labor-ed for months to induce war pro-duction board to recognize the value of chrome deposits in south-western Oregon, \$23,000,000 was being spent to construct a chrome extraction plant at an elevation of 7,500 feet in the Montana Rock-ies. Not only was a complete plant installed but there were also built a modern hospital, recreation center, busines structures and houses for the prospective workers. It was a complete city on a small scale—a city that has no occupants and from which not a single pound of chrome is being shipped. The only person to enjoy the luxury of this costly installation is a watchman.

The modern hospital has never been entered by a single nurse or doctor; it has never had a single patient. The recreation center has a large bowling alley in which the workers in the chrome plant were presumed to amuse themselves, but it has never resounded to the booming of the balls or the crash of pins. Its alleys are as smooth and glistening as the day they were completed. No store or other busi-ness enterprise has ever opened its doors to supply an anticipated pop-ulation of many hundreds.

Almost before the "city" has been competed other sources of chrome ore had been made available and extraction of chrome from the granite formation of the Montana Rockies was found to be altogether too costly for continued operation. The whole plan was abandoned and so far as present prospects indicate, the venture will be a total loss to the government. Chrome ore is now being produced in quantity in southwestern Oregon and steel mills are having no difficulty in supplying their needs for this essential alloy.

In the investigation of war spend-ing this example of hasty under-taking is regarded as a prime illus-tration of the snap judgment which caused waste of money and man-power immediately following the treacherous attack upon Pearl Har-bor and ranks with the Canol oil field development in the Fort Nor-man district of Canada. The total investment of government funds is less, but the ultimate loss may be even greater, in the opinion of those who still defend the Fort Norman adventure as supplying a wartime need.

PROMISES have been given that Oregon and Washington federalized guardsmen will be brought back to the United States from the South Pacific for a respite some time this year. These home boys were among the first transported to Australia and they have been in that area so long that under the program for a rest period for men over seas they are entitled to be brought back. They will return as means of transportation afford the opportunity and not in one body.

OPPOSITION is being raised to the proposal of the state depart-ment to bring into the United States some 75,000 Italians to re-lieve the shortages of labor. One argu-ment is that there is no man-power situation warranting the in-vasion and that once they are ad-mitted they may remain for many years. The situation with regard to Mexican labor is different. The Mex-icans worked in the fields of the northwest during the harvest where there was an acute shortage of help and did such a good job that plans are now under way to bring in an equally large number for the 1944 crop year.

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