

EDITORIAL

Don't Forget War on Polio

Don't forget that while we are engaged in a titanic struggle against formidable armed foes we also have a war on here at home. In the armed conflict there is some indication as to when and where the enemy will strike but in this war at home the enemy is silent and gives no warning. Like the Nazis and the Japs it is no respecter of persons, striking men, women and children alike, but the children, unfortunately, are more often the victims of its viciousness.

At present the March of Dimes appeal is being made throughout the land. Response to this appeal has always been generous and in recent years prior to our entering the world war satisfactory gains were being made against this enemy of mankind. Since such pressure has been put on to meet the demands of war it has been noted that infantile paralysis is on the increase. This is unfortunate but not due to lack of skill in treating the disease but rather the result of overcrowded facilities. There is no likelihood that this condition can be materially improved until peace is restored, but the battle must be carried on at all costs and the least we can do is to provide the funds for financing the work.

Your participation in the March of Dimes is paying dividends at a Portland children's hospital. Besides giving young victims of infantile paralysis a new lease on life, your contributions have helped them to help others. It is pointed out by the superintendent of the Shriners' hospital that several young men who once were polio patients at that hospital are now in the armed forces of the United States. A number of former girl polio patients are serving as nurses and nurses' helpers in Oregon hospitals. There are instances of hundreds of other polio victims treated through county chapters of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis who have returned to their homes to live normal lives. Many have launched successful business and professional careers.

Infantile paralysis does not hold the sting of a hopeless future such as it did a decade ago. Your support of the March of Dimes will help some youngster help himself.

They Don't Like Strikers

What the man in the foxhole thinks of some of the folks back home is made quite clear in a letter from a soldier in the European area who expressed himself relative to strikers. The letter appeared in the Los Angeles Livestock Journal and found its way to this desk via the John Day Valley Ranger.

S[Sgt Tom Gallagher, U. S. Motor Truck Service, is author of the letter and writes: "Letters are about all we wait for over here. The whole company has been quite downhearted because we

haven't been getting our mail every day.

"Some of the boys were up to one of our grave yards the other day and they say it wasn't a pretty sight to see. Tell me something! What in H..... are the people in the states thinking about when they go on strikes? If those people could only see some of these guys who have been killed here I don't believe they would ever strike again.

"I believe I'd just as soon shoot a striker as I would a German and I believe every man over here feels the same way. If you ever see anyone on strike beat the H..... out of him. He's just no good."

And yet there are some members of the unions so small minded they will tie up vital war orders because of a misplaced comma in their union contract! Well, maybe the soldier is right. It might be a good thing to move the strikers up front. If any survived they could come back home and tell their former striking brothers that war is just as Sherman described it.

Those Qualified Should Help

We are living in an era of emergencies. At present it is a wartime emergency—the greatest emergency ever experienced by this nation—and it calls for extra duties and even sacrifices such as it has not before been our obligation to meet. Not a business or public service of any nature but what has suffered and the end is far from being in sight. We must gird for further efforts and sacrifices.

One of the groups experiencing the greatest inroads in its ranks is the teaching profession. And that is causing not a small amount of suffering to our public schools. Teachers are only human and when the bait of bigger salary is dangled before their eyes they are apt to become blinded to the sacred obligation to their chosen profession and forsake it for the more remunerative offer. That has happened so frequently in the past three or four years that there is a serious teacher shortage everywhere. It is becoming alarming in some quarters and indications point to the closing of many schools unless those qualified to teach but not now so engaged come forth with an offer to meet the emergency.

So serious has the situation grown in Multnomah county that the Oregon Journal recently carried an advertisement urging former teachers to list their names with school officials. Their response was surprising and while it may not be sufficient to meet their requirements it at least gives the officials encouragement. This plan is being tried locally and this newspaper urges all qualified people to make an effort to alleviate the situation. It may be for one year, it may be for several years. Whatever the period, it is essential that the schools be maintained at the best possible lev-

Giles French Gives News and Views Of the Legislature

The legislature that started slowly is taking on speed with each day and members who failed to get their legislative business in shape in the comparative quiet of the first two weeks now wish they had.

Things are going to happen. Last week bills on education came in, probably most of them having to do with finance of education. The taxation and revenue committee of the house introduced the first of these, two bills that provide for equalization of school taxes within the counties. This week the education committee introduced three that were discussed last week. These bills provide for an additional \$5,000,000 which is divided in several ways.

The taxation committee bill that is receiving the greatest attention is the one that will equalize taxes for schools within counties. There is growing sentiment that something of this sort must be done and there is a proposal in the senate that all schools of the state should be thrown into one district and equalize all taxes over the entire state. That sounds pretty drastic, but indicates the thinking.

It is the contention of the principal sponsors of this bill that the state must arrange for some reformation in the present school system in order to be justified in continuing to appropriate state money for school districts. In this regard it must be remembered that until 1942 schools were entirely financed by local districts. One of the purposes of state equalization is to give the state authority to better the school financial set up.

The other taxation bill would give an additional \$3,000,000 to the schools which, with the present school support fund of \$5,000,000 would be distributed on a basis of 27 cents per pupil per day.

The education committee's bills provide \$5,000,000 divided on a district basis and a pupil basis and also provide for funds for other purposes that might lead to lack of use for the money, for instance \$90,000 would go to a sort of disaster fund which could only be used in case the assessed valuation of a district was wiped out by fire, flood, etc. Such money might become unusable if there were no fire or flood.

It seems possible that some combination of the bills may be made although it is too early to prophesy much support for such a procedure.

The county manager plan is being written, the proposed amendments to the industrial accident law and the unemployment compensation laws are in and it is likely that heavy committee work will be going on from this week until the close of the session.

A bill of interest to farmers of the 22nd district has been introduced in the house. It provides, that employers of less than three workmen may pay premiums for industrial compensation once a year. If

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el of efficiency. This is not an appeal so much in behalf of the school officials as it is the future citizens whose early training shapes the course of their lives. We cannot afford to neglect the children. The best way to maintain their morale is to keep them in school and provide as many channels for diversion as facilities and time will permit.

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