

EDITORIAL

Better Be Safe Than Sorry

When World War I ended we were led to believe that Germany was so thoroughly beaten that she could never again become a formidable enemy. We forgot the war and its attendant discomforts and set about rehabilitating our personal affairs to partake of postwar prosperity. The depression of 1920 was only a temporary setback and we soon were witnessing expansion of the automotive industry, development of radio, real estate booms in Florida as well as oil booms in many sections. We were too busy enjoying prosperity to give heed to warnings that we should make preparedness one of the musts of our national life. We gave ear to the pacifists who clamored for a reduction of arms and army and naval personnel to a point where there would be no danger of our giving offense to the smaller nations, let alone defend ourselves against a major power. During the early thirties we experienced a depression that crippled our economy for several years and during that time three aggressive powers were setting the stage to involve the world in the greatest of all wars. We disregarded warnings and then the explosion came. German arms were on the move. Poland, Czechoslovakia, France, the low countries, Norway all fell under the nazi onslaught. The English held and Hitler turned his attention to Russia.

It is a long story until the Pearl Harbor debacle, and then we found out how pitifully unprepared we were to defend our very shores to say nothing of staging an offensive. The history of

the Philippine campaign—how a small band of American officers and men augmented by the Filipino army waited in vain for reinforcements of men and materiel to come to their assistance; how the gallant little crew of airmen begged for just a few really modern planes and receiving them not stayed on the job with what they had until resistance was no longer possible.

These and countless other happenings at Corregidor and Bataan remain vividly in the minds of General Jonathan Wainwright and other gallant survivors of those frightful days in the Philippines and the subsequent languishing in Japanese prison camps. Is it any wonder that the general and others who spent long months under Japanese tyranny now advocate preparedness to the extent that would-be aggressor nations will stand in awe of our might? We have demonstrated what we can do when thoroughly aroused, but will we be able to repeat our 1940-45 record another time? Because of that record this country will be the target of any nation or group of nations and war science has developed to the point that we will never again be safe from attack.

Our only security lies in keeping pace in scientific development and enough of an armed force to put that knowledge into immediate practice if threatened from without.

A Community Asset

The value of the Heppner Women's Chorus becomes more apparent each successive season.

Now that the chorus has an extensive repertoire, its services to the community are more readily available. Initial appearance was made last night on the program of the Parent-Teacher association and the chorus is scheduled to sing on the Elks Memorial program Dec. 2.

There is nothing frivolous about the work of the chorus. The women meet each Monday evening and work faithfully on serious music—the type heard on the best radio programs or on the concert stage. That their efforts are worthwhile is seen in the increasing demand for their services and in the expressions of pleasure and appreciation by those who delight in the better grades of music.

ATTENDING CONVENTION

Judge Bert Johnson and County Clerk C. W. Barlow and Mrs. Barlow are attending the annual convention of county judges and clerks in Portland this week. Barlow is vice president of the clerk group and due to absence of the president is wielding the gavel, an unexpected honor as the word came after he left Heppner.

G. A. Nikander left this morning for Portland to buy merchandise for the Case Furniture Co. Mr. Nikander envisions many electric ranges, refrigerators and other articles of household equipment that will gladden the hearts of the ladies.

Dr. A. D. McMurdo and Earl Hunt returned this week from a most successful hunting trip. They brought in an elk that dressed out at about 400 pounds.



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