

EDITORIAL



Monday's the Day!

Monday, April 18, is an important date on the calendar for Morrow county people. On that day "We, the people" must decide whether we want to face the music and pay the price of better educational facilities or duck the responsibility and let the future bring what it may. Admittedly, it is not a pleasing outlook to the taxpayer, but let us take the viewpoint that the situation with which we are faced is the price of progress, and there are but two paths to choose from—to go ahead or go backwards.

The various budget boards have wrestled with finance problems and have endeavored to hold costs to the minimum, but by the time all reports were assembled the total reached a somewhat staggering figure. Changes in school operation—more consolidations with consequent additional bus service; the bringing of the schools up to standard requirements; the raising of teacher pay to attract the type of teachers we wish to instruct our children—these, and other factors have necessitated elevating the sights, as it were, in order to maintain an educational system worthy of the name.

It will be worth the time of the qualified voters to attend the budget meetings of their respective districts and learn, before voting, why it is necessary to raise more money for the schools this year. Lack of interest on the part of patrons may result in a lot of misunderstanding—indeed, it will result in just that—that might be prevented if they would attend the meetings and seek to learn more about school matters.

War's Terrible Cost

At a time when many people talk almost glibly of the possibility of a third world war, it is wise to attempt to assess the cost of the last conflict. Nothing resembling an exact accounting can be made—there are too many imponderables and intangibles, which permit of only an informed guess. One of the most thoughtful efforts to arrive at the cost of World War II appears in Harper's Magazine for April. It is written by C. Hartley Grattan, who has long been a student of the economic implications of war.

Mr. Grattan concludes that about 10,000,000 members of armed forces lost their lives. The last war was unique in that civilians suffered a heavier mortality than did men in uniform. The casualties from bombing; the planned extermination of whole categories of civilians; the terrible death rate among slave laborers; the losses in underground movements—these and other causes probably were responsible for 30,000,000 deaths. Thus, the total human cost of the war was 40,000,000.

To total the material cost brings the analyst to extremely difficult ground. The most obvious and easily-uneasured cost is the money actually spent for military purposes by victor and vanquished. This is recorded in national budgets. It came to more than a trillion dollars—\$1,117,000,000,000. Next we must arrive at the cost of the physical damage which was done during the long course of the conflict. Factories, power plants, transporta-

tion systems and whole industrial regions were razed on a wholesale scale. Both sides concentrated on attacking dwelling areas—people who have no place to live especially in severe weather, are of small value as workers. Mr. Grattan arrives at the figure of \$2,234,000,000,000 (Over 2 trillion) to cover the cost of direct destruction.

But this is not all. There is another economic cost, which is the most difficult yet to estimate. That cost is found in the depletion of natural resources, the disorganization of economic systems, the value of labor and material seized and carted off by invaders, and so on. Mr. Grattan places this cost at \$650,000,000,000. Adding all the costs up, we have a final, incredible figure of four trillion dollars—\$4,000,000,000,000! And this, as he says, leaves out the normal cost of war, which is beyond statistics.

World War II was seven times as destructive as World War I. If World War III should come with the atom bomb there is every reason to believe that the costs would be beyond calculation and civilization wiped out.

Here is why the best minds in the world are now devoted to the task of maintaining the peace.

Rights Must Be Earned

Albert S. Goss, Master of the National Grange, has written a telling editorial on the important subject of "Human Rights Versus Human Responsibility." He points out that the General Assembly of the United Nations has officially stressed rights which are theoretically owed the individual by the state, such as the right of rest and leisure, protection against unemployment, housing and medical care and other forms of social security.

Then Mr. Goss writes: "We believe the United Nations is tackling the whole question of human rights wrong end first....What the world really needs is a Declaration of Human Responsibility! People need to learn that they cannot expect something for nothing. Furthermore, self-government falls when a majority fails to realize that they must contribute as much as they take out. For example, the impossible economic situation in France today is the result of the people demanding more of the government than they give. ...It is high time we return to the simple philosophy of willingness to work."

One great difficulty that must be met by the framers of the United Nations declaration of policy is that they must satisfy scores of nations and governments which subscribe to every kind and form of political theory. However, the peoples of the free countries, the United States included, have gone a long way down the deadly path that leads to complete governmental domination of our lives. The "gimme" spirit has reached tragic proportions. And so has the idea that government "owes" us protection against every possible exigency.

To quote Mr. Goss again, "Rights must be earned through the exercising of responsibility." In a free country, the people support their government, and give it orders. In a dictatorship, the government takes over the people, and gives them orders. The distinction is that simple.

The American Way

SLAVE LABOR?

By DeWitt Emery

(Editor's Note: DeWitt Emery is president of the National Small Business Men's Association.)
Now it can be told at long last, William Green, President of the A. F. of L. is on record concern-

ing what—in his judgment—makes the Taft-Hartley Act a slave labor law. Here's what he says:

"The Constitution of the United States provides that involuntary servitude shall not be imposed on any individual except as punishment for crime. Yet the Taft-Hartley Law authorizes the use of injunctions which when applied compels workers to work against their will. That is slavery and involuntary servitude, practiced in a free America. How would employers feel if they were enjoined and compelled by injunctions to operate their plants against their will and at a loss? It matters not how long a man is compelled to work—for one minute or one second—it is compulsion, and if he is forced to work against his will and go to jail as a consequence of refusing to work, he is a victim of involuntary servitude and slavery. You and no one else can deny this fact."

How do you like that? According to Green, workers are slaves because the Taft-Hartley Act gives the government the right, for example, to go into court and get an injunction to keep babies from starving when a strike prevents their getting milk, forcing the workers to stay on the job doing their regular work at their regular rate of pay while at their own and employer negotiate a new contract.

Apparently, Mr. Green feels that it's perfectly all right for him and a small handful of other labor union bosses to have life and death power over this nation of one hundred fifty million people; that it's all right for these labor union bosses to be able whenever they wish to shut off food, fuel and everything else for everyone in the country; that the public has no right at all to protect itself in any way against anything union labor wants to do.

In case he doesn't know it, someone should tell Bill Green that it's exactly this attitude, "union labor can do no wrong," which was responsible for the people forcing Congress to pass the Taft-Hartley Act. They got fed all the way up to the ears with mass picketing, intimidation, coercion, goon squads, anarchy, with being kicked around the lot by a small group of selfish, self-centered, self-seeking unscrupulous labor union bosses.

This "slavery" idea of Green's, however, has some rather intriguing aspects. I've heard the income tax law called many hard names and heard it denounced from several different angles, but I never heard it called a "slave labor law." However, according to his reasoning, that's exactly what it must be.

Take my case for example: Every year I work about twenty-five percent of the time for the federal government. This very definitely is against my will and because it is, I am, therefore, a "victim of involuntary servitude," which must mean that I'm a "slave" of the state. I don't like being a slave, and if those of you who pay income tax and are, therefore, victims of involuntary servitude, also object to being slaves, perhaps we should do something about it. Maybe by all working together we could force our "masters" to repeal the "income-tax-slave-labor-law." I'll be glad to spearhead the movement if you'll back me up on it.

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DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE

The legislature's courage for achievement was caught in its first eddies of dissension Saturday when Representative Giles French regiminated an opposition bloc and tabled the senate's version of the tax bill. French led a fight to put to the vote of the people a constitutional amendment that would prevent the state from levying a property tax for state purposes, and require initiative petitions to state how much what they propose would cost, also to create an interim committee to study Oregon's tax structure.

The tabling vote came after a senate house conference committee had an "unjangling" tug-of-war that lasted four hours and reported no progress.

This move developed visions of a 100-day session.

INTERIM COMMITTEE ERRED
The act of the highway interim committee, created by a joint resolution of the 1947 legislature, in drawing \$106,000 from highway funds to conduct its study was declared an error this week in an opinion by the attorney general's office.

The opinion says "That an unambiguous and clear constitutional limitation prohibits drawing money from the treasury thru the medium of an attempted appropriation by joint resolution."

Senator Richard L. Neuberger, who requested the opinion, and other senators were critical of the amount expended and of the legality of the expenditure. In reading the opinion on the floor of the senate, Neuberger said he had been unable to account for \$15,000 of the sum despite an intensive search through the records filed with the highway commission and the secretary of state.

DENIES DESIGNS

"Oregon's southern neighbor

has no designs for tapping Columbia river water," said California's Governor Earl Warren to his host, Governor McKay, at the meeting of three western governors in Portland last week. The federal government is conducting a survey of a plan to pipe Columbia river water to alleviate a California water supply shrinkage.

BOTH COULD BE RIGHT
"You say we should admit we didn't know what we were doing when we voted for the \$50-a-month pension," retorted a contrite older at a social welfare committee hearing. "What we will admit is that we didn't know what we were doing when we voted for you to come to the legislature."



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A classic pattern of museum richness and authority. Named after the original gold home (at Oneida, New York) of the craftsman who fashioned it. See this opulent solid silver pattern today! We will be glad to set up a payment plan even for a starter set of two place settings.

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Citizens having matters for discussion, please bring them before the Council. Phone 2572

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30 YEARS AGO

Heppner Gazette Times, April 17, 1919
W. F. Barnett, merchant and farmer of Lexington, was a business visitor in Heppner on Monday. Mr. Barnett expresses the opinion that the Lexington country faces the best crop prospects this spring she has enjoyed in her history, judging from the present outlook.

ount represented on the 1918 roll to be collected is \$224,653.08. Amount collected to date, \$114,841.52, and turned over to the treasurer, \$111,841.77, leaving a balance on hand of \$3101.75. This indicates that a little better than one-half of the taxes on the roll have been collected up to the present time.



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That "special someone" you're escorting in the Easter parade will love a corsage to complement her costume. If you place your order now, you can be certain of getting just the proper flowers.

EASTER LILIES \$3.00 up

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A Change In Personnel . . .

It is our pleasure to announce that a change in personnel has been effected in our firm. Harlan McCurdy Jr. has acquired an interest in the business and will hereafter be associated with us in caring for your insurance problems.

Mr. McCurdy needs no introduction to the people of Morrow County, and we are happy to have him as a member of our firm.

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