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Ye Smudge Pot

By Arthur Perry

The U. S. commissioner of education advised a Denver convention 10 million men are exempt from the draft because they cannot read or write. Sgt. York of First World War, holds their illiteracy should not seriously affect their fighting ability. Even if they can't spell "trigger" they should be able to pull one. It should take no time at all to teach them how to scribble and decipher phrases chalked on the side of a day coach like "On To Tokyo" and "To Hell with Hitler."

Citizens have been barred from forest areas of high fire hazard. This should curb stray outdoor enthusiasts from strolling into the timber and leaving behind an empty bottle that smells of kerosene instead of whiskey.

Women workers in a Connecticut factory, all a bit on the heavy side, balked at a management order to wear slacks in the "interests of safety." The plant, it seems, did not look enough like a busy street.

From all accounts the Portland shipyard workers picnic riot over the last week-end was a devastating success, though no political issue was involved.

The German battleship Von Tirpitz, torpedoed twice by a Russian submarine now lurks in "an inaccessible fjord," London reports. The Von Tirpitz is one of the world's largest ships. If sequestered in "an inaccessible fjord," how did she get into it? If she made it, why can't destroyers and submarines do the same? We pause for reply as the old-fashioned editors asked when stumped.

An officer of the Women's Army announces "applicants had better forget flirting as this is war." To stop this nonsense is going to be a job. Blinders will have to be put on either the lady soldiers or the men, and just to be sure, all of them.

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE!

(Oregonian)

"To the Editor: It seems to me that one of the marked differences between the last war and the present is this lavish distribution of crosses and medals. Before this war is over some of these boys will have ribbons down to their belly-buttons."

Roseburg was darkened the first of the week by a whirlwind. An investigation should be launched to determine if it was a prank of nature or just a candidate warming up for the campaign.

A shortage of applicants for postmaster of Salem at \$4,200 per year is hinted. It looks like some "loyal democrat" would have to be yanked loose from a wartime job that pays more, lest the war effort be relaxed and a republican named.

A number of the Older Girls have returned from the high hills where they were blitzed by enemy mosquitoes with diamond drills on their bills.

"John Crippens have moved a small barn down to the river near their irrigated land so that they can milk down there this summer. They have also piped water into their home."—(Saver Items, Salem Capital Journal).—Suspicion.

The second largest irrigated state in the nation, Colorado's irrigation system was started by Horace Greeley's Union Colony at Greeley in 1870

An Experts View of the War

History is being made so fast, particularly in the military world, books on military strategy nowadays are of questionable value.

Yet when a military expert as experienced and highly regarded as Hanson W. Baldwin of the New York Times, does write such a book, it is an event of considerable importance.

For in the field of modern warfare, Mr. Baldwin has what is known as prestige. He may not be the "seventh son of a seventh son," but his articles since the start of World War No. 2, have been upheld by subsequent events in almost uncanny fashion. Except in his failure to foresee the marvellous military power of Soviet Russia, the Times military critic's batting average in fact has been high in the .400 brackets.

HOWEVER, this failure to size up the Red Army accurately, may represent a genuine weakness, and chiefly account, perhaps, for the book's rather pessimistic outlook,—a tendency to form judgments too much on the past and not enough on the future.

For the book, while not "defeatist" at all,—in fact the author chose the title "Strategy for VICTORY"—and sticks throughout to that main thesis,—doesn't in view of the present war situation east and west, paint what could be termed a rosy picture.

For example: To win this war the united nations, declares Mr. Baldwin, MUST HOLD the following vital fields of action:

Britain, the Russian Caucasus, the Middle East (Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Suez) in Europe.

The Aleutians, Hawaii, in the Pacific, India, China and Siberia in the Far East.

AS we understand the author, he does not mean the Axis must be driven ENTIRELY out of this tremendous area, for the allies to win; but he DOES believe that as long as the enemy controls any MAJOR portions of it, complete victory is doubtful, if not impossible.

And the chief reason given by Mr. Baldwin is what might be termed the tremendous headstart gained by the Axis, as the result of nearly a decade of intensive military preparation, and striking hard before the united nations, with the exception of Russia, were in any sense, prepared.

IT is an interesting book and as above stated, is about as authoritative as any treatise on military matters could be at such a rapidly changing time as this.

But there is of course nothing final or conclusive about it.

Mr. Baldwin may be as wrong in many of these conclusions, as he was in his belief that Soviet Russia couldn't stand up against the German army for more than five or six weeks.

HOWEVER two points emphasized, this column particularly liked, for they have been stressed in this department ever since the war started:

- No. 1: This is the toughest war in which the United States has ever engaged.
- No. 2: The war and navy departments, particularly the latter have been inexcusably derelict in "glossing over serious blunders and reverses and over-emphasizing minor successes."

The author's conclusion in fact is one which the Mail Tribune endorses 100 percent:

"Public relations should be based upon informing the people, not wet-nursing them, in telling them the truth, all the truth, not of assistance to the enemy, rather than withholding from them facts already known to the enemy."

He Dares To Be True

When it comes to truth-telling in this war, Great Britain is—and from the outset has been,—way out in front. And we are not excepting the United States.

We don't mean by that Britain tells "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." No nation does, no nation should.

But what it does tell IS true. It does not deal, as the Axis persistently does in outright fiction, as a definite part of strategy.

This fact has been clearly demonstrated the past few days by Britain's reports of plane losses, not only over Germany, but in Egypt.

The British totals, in three separate instances, have exceeded the German estimates!

We can think of no stronger evidence that as far as it is possible from the standpoint of the national welfare, and military necessity, Johnny Bull does deal not in fiction, but in fact!

Not So Fast

Baseball, tennis, golf,—we are glad to see these popular sports going on as usual, and hope, for the duration, the good work continues. It is good military training for those who participate; it is a desirable "morale" stimulus for the rank and file.

But we can't agree with today's expert baseball prognostics, that "it is all over but the shouting" as far as this year's world series is concerned.

Brooklyn is 8 games ahead, the Yankees, 4,—a good head-start we grant, and in all probability the hook-up of a year ago, will be the "situation" this year.

But we wouldn't advise those addicted to the sin of betting, to pull any "Thorndike" at this stage of the argument.

In fact taking the short end of a two or three to one wager, we would unhesitatingly classify as a good investment,—at least as good as any investments are these inflationary days!

Personal Health Service

By William Brady, M. D.

Signed letters pertaining to personal health and hygiene, not to disease diagnosis or treatment, will be answered by Dr. Brady if a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. Letters should be brief and written in ink. Owing to the large number of letters received only a few can be answered here. No reply can be made to queries not conforming to instructions. Address Dr. William Brady, 265 El Camino, Beverly Hills, Calif.

WHY IS A DOOR KNOB?

Bacteriologist in an agriculture experiment station writes:

We were interested in your comments concerning contamination of b u s handles, s t a i r handles, d o o r knobs etc. We have undertaken to investigate the types or organisms common in a n i n g s such surfaces.

Some of your statements are true so far as our data are concerned and others of your statements may be eye to some question.

As you probably know, there are ways in which doorknobs and similar surfaces may be sterilized with standard disinfectants, and we believe that in future steps will be taken to see that such surfaces are regularly and properly sterilized.

We hope our findings in this investigation will give us definite information on the number and types of organisms and so afford some indication of the kind of disinfectant to use.

(Signed —)

Such tests of surface handled by many people daily have been made innumerable times and as nearly as I can learn the results have been of no special value in determining the choice of an antiseptic or disinfectant for such contaminated surfaces.

After all, who cares how badly contaminated a surface may be if he doesn't have to touch the surface? Doorknobs may be necessary in some instances, but in many instances they should be prohibited by sanitary ordinance—for instance on doors of restrooms or lavatories. For the same reason handles should be prohibited on faucets in lavatories, foot pedals or other arrangements to work the faucets without touching them.

Personally, if I had a choice of antiseptics or disinfectants for any surface likely to be contaminated, or for the mouthpiece of a telephone (tho I wouldn't bother to "disinfect" or "sterilize" a telephone no matter who used it besides myself) I'd choose plain soap and water. I believe soap and water washing of any such surface makes it perfectly safe, practically.

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