

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

There's an old saying to the effect that no news is good news. Hmhmhmhm. If that's true, it look as this is written like today would be a MARVELOUS news day.

OUT HERE in the West, when there is no other news to talk about we can always talk about water shortages — and at this moment in history the British crown colony of Hong Kong has one of the most fabulous water shortages in history.

As it enters its annual dry season, its 14 reservoirs hold only 127 days supply — and no more rain can be expected until next May — which is 150 days off. What to do in the remaining 23 days is a problem of the first magnitude.

THE FIRST thing to do is to ration the water, and that they are doing. Most of the colony's taps are dry except for four hours EVERY FOURTH DAY.

That goes for the natives. The tourists, who provide Hong Kong's largest source of income, fare a bit better. They get water every day, but only for one hour. So, if you are thinking of going to Hong Kong, don't expect too many baths.

On the "water days," the natives fill every available receptacle. Except for what they drink, the water is used over and over. It is used first for bathing, then for washing clothes and flushing toilets and what is left is carried out and poured on the gardens.

WHY THIS shortage in a region whose annual rainfall is 85 inches — approximately equal to Oregon's northern coastal area?

The answer is that much of the colony consists of rocky islands, where the water runs off immediately into the sea. The mainland part of the colony has no rivers that can be dammed to hold the water that falls in the rainy season.

The inhabitants are like the Ancient Mariner in his "painted ship upon a painted ocean" where there was "water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink."

WHAT TO do about it? One thing they do about it is to IMPORT water from Communist China. They import it in tank ships — as oil is imported in other parts of the world.

At the present time, they are using ten tankers in this service, at a cost of \$700,000 a month. These tankers have been working at the job ever since the end of last June, and in this way they have added about a billion gallons to their supply.

WE THINK we have our problems in Oregon—including what to do with the Boardman area. But water enough to drink, to wash our clothes with and take a bath in isn't one of them.

Our big problem is to get as much money as we think we need to keep us happy. Maybe we could solve that one by selling our surplus water to thirsty Southern California.

Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initial for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Thanks

To the Editor: The members of Travel Study Club, of the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs, wish to thank the Medford Mail Tribune for the space given them for the General Federation of Women's Clubs CARE-Literacy program.

Much thanks is given to Olive Starcher for her fine cooperation during the CARE week. Thanks to Eric Allen for his fine editorial on illiteracy.

The project was a success due to the press coverage and the people of the community, who shared because they CARED.

The Club wishes to thank the Severson Candy Company for supplying the mints for the CARE tea, the MJB coffee company, who, through the Groceries, provided the coffee, and to Mrs. Kent Hogan for background music on the Hammond organ provided by Purucker's.

Through CARE, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, will send kits containing the necessary materials to help children and adults acquire an education. This is an important step and a challenge for the Federation to meet.

Contributions are warmly welcomed, and may be sent to Mrs. Clay M. Lee, Cargill Court, Apt. 8, Medford, as late as Dec. 31, 1963.

Mrs. Clay M. Lee,
State Chairman of

Projects,
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Women's Clubs
Mrs. Beryl Lyon,

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