

MERRILL GRADE SCHOOL BURNS

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

ONE of the handicaps of modern life is lack of understanding of the basic facts of things as they are. So many of us know so many things that aren't so.

For example: When we think of Big Business, we picture a little group of portly gentlemen wearing Prince Albert coats, striped pants and white waistcoats and topping off this ensemble with a plug hat.

I'd like to let you in on a secret. I'm no spring chicken. I've seen more summers and winters than I'm willing to admit. I've rambled around quite a little in my time. But I've never seen a business man diked out in an outfit like that.

Have you?

RATHER imagine that Homer Davenport, who got his start in Silverton, up in the Willamette valley, had as much to do with that picture as anybody. He drew cartoons of plug-hatted, pocketknives back in the days when big business was more or less run by a few men, and in addition to putting white vests on them he drew in dollar signs on the vests.

His cartoons stuck in the public mind. They're there yet.

SO—In any contest between big business and the common people (universally depicted as a worried, hen-pecked little guy with untrimmed whiskers and a scrawny neck) we can see only one side of the story. We're FOR the little guy.

BELIEVE it or not, things have changed. Big Business is no longer owned by a few Big Wheels. As of now, some 13 MILLION people own shares in American corporations. Of this number, six million, or 45 per cent, are women. A very, very large number of these women bought their stocks as investments for the life insurance left them by their deceased husbands.

LET'S take a recent case. When U. S. Steel balked at providing pensions for free for its workers, we all harked back to Homer Davenport and conjured up in our minds a picture of a big, fat wallop in a plug hat thundering a brutal NO at a cringing little working man who had dared to ask for a pension for his old age.

WELL, it wasn't quite that way. According to the latest figures available, the U. S. Steel Corporation has 166,823 stockholders. I don't know how many workers it has, but not a great many more, I imagine. You will recall that around a half million workers went on strike, and U. S. Steel represents about a third of the steel industry.

HERE is the way it works out in these days: The stockholders of U. S. Steel, recognizing that steel is a big industry and has to have big men to run it if it is to succeed, get together and hire a manager. This manager (at present a Mr. Fairless) speaks for them in their dealings. The steel workers, recognizing likewise that steel is a big industry and that they must have a good man to stand up for them in their dealings with their employers, get together and hire themselves a manager—at present a Mr. Murray.

Both Mr. Fairless and Mr. Murray are well paid and both have a LOT of power.

THIS is what happens: If Mr. Murray makes an exceptionally good deal for his thousands and thousands of worker-comrades, they have more and the stockholders have less for the duration of the contract. If Mr. Fairless happens to put over a smart deal for his thousands and thousands of stockholder-comrades, they are somewhat better off and the workers (Continued on Page 7)

LOSING BUSES?

LA GRANDE, Ore., Nov. 29 (AP)—La Grande may lose its city bus service in the next two months, Operator John E. Wilson, Longview, Wash., said here today. Wilson said the service, started two and one-half years ago, has been losing money since the first of the year.

Record Reforestation Program Planned For Oregon, Washington

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29 (AP)—The greatest reforestation program in the history of Washington and Oregon will be carried out as fast as Congress makes the necessary money available.

Ira J. Mason, chief of the division of timber management of the Anderson-Mansfield act for reseeded some 4,000,000 acres of approved timberland in national forests of the United States.

As drafted, the program calls for the replanting or reseeded to trees of 330,000 acres in Oregon and 205,000 acres in Washington.

This would be carried out over 15 years under the authorized program, but all actual work must await the voting of money by Congress.

Denied

Mason said that for the most part the areas to be reforested were denuded of trees by clear cutting or disastrous fires prior to acquisition by the national forests.

Since denuded or burned over forests in the Pacific Northwest are replanted at the rate of 600 seedlings per acre, he figured about one-half billion seedlings will be needed to replant areas there.

Seedlings

The first service nurseries at Bend, in the Deschutes national forest, and Wind River, in the Gifford Pinchot national forest in Washington, will produce the needed seedlings, Mason said.

The Bend nursery produces Ponderosa pine and the Wind River nursery produces Douglas fir seedlings.

Mason said that to date 47,654 acres have been reforested in national forests in Oregon and 62,950 acres in those in Washington.

The most critical areas in each state will be treated first, he added.

Two Plane Crashes Kill 34

28 Deaths In Texas Catastrophe

DALLAS, Tex., Nov. 29 (AP)—An American Airlines plane crashed into buildings on the border of Love field early today and burned. Twenty-eight of the 46 aboard were killed.

Fourteen persons were in hospitals. Four others were injured less seriously and released.

The big DC-6 was en route to Mexico City from New York and Washington.

It struck a hangar and plowed broadside into a chemical plant after swooping over the field in an attempt to land. A crew member, who staggered dazed and bleeding to a nearby house, said one of the engines was afire and he had stopped the other three.

Survivors

Three of the crew members and 14 passengers survived.

Identification of the dead was difficult because the bodies were badly burned. Survivors not badly injured scattered to hotels, adding to the task of rescue workers in determining casualties.

Lt. Col. A. F. S. Fane, a British king's messenger, was among those

FRENCH TRAGEDY

LYON, France, Nov. 29 (AP)—Six or more persons were reported killed today in the flaming crash of an Air France plane about 15 miles northwest of Lyon.

Air France said in Paris 37 persons were aboard the plane.

presumed dead. The British embassy said he was en route to Mexico City and Guatemala on an official mission.

Two prominent Mexicans, Dr. Luis de la Rosa and Jose de la Mora and his family, also were aboard. De la Rosa was president of the Mexican national chamber of broadcasting. De la Mora is a director in the Mexican Aviation company. Dr. De la Rosa was among the survivors.

Bodies

Justice of the Peace Pierce McBride said he had viewed 28 bodies—those of 17 men and 11 women.

Colored flames from burning chemicals lit up the scene early. Nearly two hours after the crash officers described the situation as "organized chaos."

Firemen were still pulling charred and rigid bodies from the twisted wreckage.

A blue-uniformed representative of the lines stood by the plane, weeping unashamedly as he kept count of the bodies brought out.

A seriously injured crew member staggered to a nearby home.

While blood oozed from his mouth, he said:

"I want to make a statement."

Report

Frances Hudson, a grocery store employe, said she took this statement from the man, who described himself as the co-pilot:

"Number four engine afire on approach. Air opened the right hatch. The plane was on fire and I cut all four engines. The engines were off when we hit."

Commies Close On Chungking

CHUNGKING, Nov. 29 (AP)—The communists closed in on Chungking tonight amid the noise of battle.

Cannon and machine gun fire was audible in this Yangtze river city of 1,000,000.

Soldiers guarded the streets. Traffic which jammed thoroughfares yesterday was absent today.

Only a few trucks were seen leaving the city. Some 600 others waited to cross the river at Neichang, halfway to Chengtu. Chengtu will be the next and fourth capital of Nationalist China in a year.

Chambers Swears Hiss Gave Secrets

NEW YORK, Nov. 29 (AP)—Ex-communist Whittaker Chambers swore "before God" today that he got secret government documents from former high state department official Alger Hiss.

Chambers resumed direct testimony in Hiss' second perjury trial after a grueling cross-examination in which the defense tried to show that the secret papers could have come from someone other than Hiss.

Assistant U. S. Attorney Thomas F. Murphy asked the short, stocky Chambers: "On your oath, before God, did he (Hiss) turn over state department documents?"

"He did," Chambers answered in a firm, clear voice.

Power Outage Scheduled For Thursday

A short special outage of electrical power for preventive maintenance has been scheduled for 3 a. m. Thursday, December 1, it was announced by Sam Ritchey of the Oregon California Power company.

For approximately 1 1/2 minutes power will be off for a large part of the town area so that the main bus structure at the Copco west side plant may be cleaned of dust and other particles deposited from the air.

This main "switch yards" of the Copco system here has been completely overhauled and redesigned since the power outage last June, Ritchey said, and this cleaning operation is just another precautionary measure towards giving uninterrupted power service.

Coffee Price Probe Slated, Senator Says

amount of scare buying which has certainly been good news to the speculators and the foreign coffee interests.

Big Stocks

Gillette said import figures indicate the U. S. should have on hand the highest stocks of coffee on record.

He released a letter asking the census bureau to make a survey and report exactly how much coffee this country has in reserve stocks.

Gillette's action came after Senator Young (R-ND) said he is convinced there is speculation and profiteering in the coffee market.

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FLAMES SHOOT HIGH

The top picture, taken a few minutes after flames had broken through the roof of the Merrill elementary school building this morning, shows the fire at its height. The building was gutted in about two hours. Lower picture shows a teacher and several youngsters viewing the fire along with some saved equipment. For the kids it was a holiday, but they'll be back at their books tomorrow.

Spectacular Blaze Razes Old Building

MERRILL—The Merrill elementary school building, 38 years old, burned in a spectacular fire this morning but luckily with no loss of life or injury.

About 250 youngsters had one day free from classes but probably will get back to their books again tomorrow. Plans were being made to put some of them in the Merrill high building and others in the city recreation hall.

Russ Ask Overthrow Of Tito

MOSCOW, Nov. 29 (AP)—The cominform called upon all communists in the world today to help Yugoslav peasants and workers overthrow Premier Marshal Tito's regime.

The cominform (communist international information bureau) has held its first meeting, the official press and radio said, since it expelled the Tito regime from its membership in June, 1948. The meeting was secret and was held the latter part of this month in Hungary.

A resolution passed by the cominform said the "fight against Tito's clique—the hired spies and murderers—is the international duty of all communist and workers parties."

Action?

(Communist leaders in the past have urged the overthrow of Tito's regime. The new blast touched off speculation by Western diplomatic observers on whether the cominform had secretly drafted concrete plans for action to oust the Yugoslav ruler.)

(Foreign diplomatic quarters in New York last week said they had heard reports an anti-Tito coup was planned for some time between Christmas and Easter. According to the necessarily unconfirmed reports, the coup would start with a staged revolt in Belgrade with plot leaders calling in immediate help from Hungary and Romania.)

Alert

Firemen were swarming over the building a few minutes after Scott first sounded the alarm. The Merrill telephone office and Al Neiman at the Spud Cellar routed out the fire fighters and Neiman phoned The Herald and News with first word of the blaze.

Ironically, the elementary school building was just about due for replacement. Harry Wilson, county school board member, said it was planned to erect a new elementary building at Merrill in 1951. The building and equipment was covered by a blanket insurance policy on all county schools.

However, at current prices, a new school probably will cost about \$200,000 and the insurance return is not expected to amount to near that figure.

West Defense Agreement Said Reached

PARIS, Nov. 29 (AP)—Chiefs of staffs of the armies of 12 North Atlantic treaty nations met here today and were reported to have reached agreement on unified defense against any future foe.

The military experts, a reliable source said, have now only to put "the technical experts to work" to complete North Atlantic defenses.

Most of this work, he said, would be done here in the next two days, before Atlantic Pact nations defense ministers meet Thursday to approve the plan.

Storm Death Toll 27; Fears Ease

SEATTLE, Nov. 29 (AP)—With flood fears lessening, tired grimy workers in storm-drenched Northwest Washington turned their major attention today to mopping up operations—repairing broken dikes and cleaning silt and gravel from their homes and business establishments.

Only on the lower Skagit river was there any remaining danger of flood. Even there, army engineers told Mayor E. A. Bryant of Stanwood, the situation is under control until the next high tide at mid-day. Nevertheless, several hundred volunteers and soldiers continued to sandbag the saturated river barriers.

Repairs

With the river's dropping off, repair work got under way. Great Northern railway work crews toiled to replace a half mile of main line track washed out yesterday six and one-half miles south of Mount Vernon.

Twenty-seven persons were killed and one is missing as a result of the week-end storm that roared in on a 100-mile front extending from British Columbia to Southern Oregon and then slashed its way with 100 mile-an-hour winds across the Cascade and Rocky Mountains before veering into Manitoba where it played itself out. Nineteen of the deaths were in British Columbia.

No Formal Dress For HST Party

KEY WEST, Fla., Nov. 29 (AP)—President Truman and the other better-dressed men here today wore plain woolen bathing trunks, or a pair of pink slacks and a sports shirt.

Some of the president's staff—Special Counsel Clark M. Clifford, for instance—shunned such conventional attire. The 42-year-old lawyer threatened to do as he did here last March—go barefoot in tattered duck trousers—and grow a beard to match his blonde hair.

Rockaway Water

ROCKAWAY, Nov. 29 (AP)—This coastal city is acquiring its own water system after years of buying water from a private company. It is purchasing the Sunset Water company for \$70,000.

The schedule called for more work than play, but there was nothing in the official decree to require striped trousers, ties or other such equipment.