

## VERNONIA EAGLE



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RAY D. FISHER, Editor and Publisher

### The Case of Bruno Hauptmann

Capture of Bruno Hauptmann, accused of extortion, kidnaping and murder in the Lindbergh case, is a tribute to the persistence and efficiency of the federal secret service. While the public, engrossed in the Dillingers, Baby Face Nelsons and other gangsters who have commanded front page space within recent months, may have regarded the Lindbergh episode as only an event in crime history along with the D'Autremont hunt and Al Capone's beer racketeering, to the secret service the abduction and murder of little Charles Augustus Lindbergh was a live matter, a problem pursued with a zest undulled by a succession of false leads, blind trails and futile gropings.

With such a good start it is to be hoped that equal efficiency will be shown by the courts. If general tendencies be any criterion, however, the outlook is not so favorable. Though American courts sometimes rise to the occasion—as in the Zangara trial in Florida—and act swiftly and decisively, the custom, is to putter and delay, encouraging rather than de-

terrering crime because criminals with the help of shrewd attorneys know that they have better than an even chance of beating the game.

If Hauptmann's eminent attorney confines himself to seeing that the prisoner gets a fair trial instead of having for his real object the defeating of justice by shrewd jury picking, delays, technicalities, sentimental blah that has nothing to do with the guilt or innocence of the accused, the lesson may come home to potential kidnapers that crimes of that kind, no matter how cleverly planned and executed do not pay; just as they should know, from the Hauptmann capture, that the big criminal is never safe from detection.

### The Morro Castle Disaster

The sea has its noble traditions, and many a seaman has gone unflinchingly to his death in the effort to do the utmost in securing the safety of passengers and preserving the ship itself.

That there were men aboard the Morro Castle who lived up to the best that the sea has taught is unquestioned. Of such was the third assistant engineer who stuck to his post while his chief scuttled off in the first lifeboat to be launched—but the story as brought out in the inquiry is on the whole anything but inspiring. Officers too dazed even to send out an SOS call, too ignorant of fire fighting to direct the crew how to combat the flames when there still was a chance of quenching the fire, too regardless of the passengers to leave them any choice but to jump into the sea or be roasted to death—such an exhibit does no credit to American seamanship. The disaster involved not only a regrettable loss of life, but also a violation of a fine tradition.

### What Other Editors Say

#### Senate Investigation of Munition Business Takes Most of the Glory Out of Fighting

The senate investigation of munitions may be a good publicity stunt, it may cause foreign nations to protest and munition makers to bring pressure to bear but public opinion in the United States wants the facts and believes the investigation should be continued.

For a long time there has been a prevailing suspicion that munition manufacturers had realized that wars between manufacturers of munition supplies did not pay but that nations could be moved like pawns on the chess board of International rivalry to buy war supplies, stage battles to save the fatherland, and munition makers in the end be the victors with the spoils in the form of enormous profits. The investigation has confirmed entirely too many of the shady business

methods used to stimulate traffic in arms.

The facts of the investigation, if they ever become known to the world, become a mockery of the extravagant patriotic sentiments of jingo orators urging youth on to war.

While the munition investigation may not stop wars we believe that its revelations will result in accomplishing more tangible results than many peace conferences.—Forest Grove News-Times.

Quite a few children wouldn't be so bad if it weren't for the parents they have to live with. Other children wouldn't be so bad if their parents would stay home long enough to live with them.—Ex.

The two big problems now seem to be finding jobs for the unemployed and keeping those who are working from striking.—Chiloquin Review.

#### ADVANCE IN FARM PRICES LARGELY DUE TO DROUGHT

The general level of farm prices advanced about 10 per cent during the last two months, according to information given in a report on the agricultural situation just released by the college agricultural extension service. This boost in farm prices is attributed more to the drought than to stronger demand conditions.

The general exchange value of farm products has advanced 10 per cent since a year ago, having reached nearly three-fourths of the prewar parity level, the report shows. Wool, oats and

corn have climbed above 90 per cent of parity, while hay, wheat and barley have been moving toward that mark.

Indicative of the general reduction in crop production, the estimated combined yield of 33 of the principal crops will be 18 per cent less than last year and 22 per cent below the 13-year average, the report says. A late potato crop approximately equal to 1933 but 26 million bushels below average was indicated on September 1.

Cash farm income for the whole country is estimated at about six billion dollars in the year 1934, approximately one bil-

lion more than in 1933 but nearly four billion under the 1926-1930 average. Oregon farm income is expected to total around 20 per cent greater than last year, but will fall short of the 1926-1930 level about 40 per cent, according to the circular. For the whole country, from 10 to 12 per cent of the total 1934 cash farm income will be derived from agricultural adjustment rental and benefit payments, and the rest from marketings.

Members of the cast for the Nehalem club play met at the home of Mrs. F. M. Ruhl for the first rehearsal Tuesday night.

### The Open Forum - -

Editor, Vernonia Eagle:

In your issue of September 21 appears an article about a meeting of Democrats at Clatskanie at which Mr. E. R. Treharne of Vernonia is reported to have stated that "Of each dollar of CWA money spent in this state the republican bureau in control spent 80 cents of it and the men got 20 cents."

Mr. Treharne's meaning is not clear to me, but the inference is plain enough and I have no doubt it was his intention to convey the impression to your readers that 80 per cent of the CWA funds spent in Oregon went for administration and only 20 per cent reached the unemployed for whom it was intended.

If this statement were not tragic, it would be ludicrous. To any but the very blindest partison it will be absurd. However, there are many unthinking people who may be misled by even such ridiculous charges. Consequently, while I have much to do other than answering asinine charges about the mis-application of relief funds, I am going to take the trouble to answer Mr. Treharne.

Mr. Treharne is really quite well qualified to speak on the application of CWA funds. Most of your readers will recall that he was in direct charge of three or four CWA road projects in this community. If 80 per cent of the CWA money spent on the projects under his supervision went for administration, Mr. Treharne should know it better than anyone else, for he was the administrator.

I do not believe that, of the CWA funds spent under Mr. Treharne's direction, 80 per cent went for administration. Nor do I believe that any other CWA administrator, Republican or Democrat, was so careless of the funds spent under his direction and so heedless of the intent of government in its effort to alleviate distress and destitution.

By its very nature, the CWA was a wasteful extravagant form of putting money into circulation and was so recognized by every one familiar with its functioning from President Roosevelt and Civil Works Administrator Hopkins on down. That these gentlemen recognized its wastefulness is well evidenced by the rapidity with which they abandoned it and the

reluctance with which they approach consideration of any similar form of relief, notwithstanding the enormous pressure being brought by various political groups for resumption of some form of large scale governmental work relief.

There was plenty of evidence of CWA wastefulness even in our small, local projects. It is a matter of public record that Mr. Treharne, as CWA project administrator, was charged by his superior's with extravagance in the use of blasting powder and other supplies. This, however, does not mean there was graft or mis-application of funds; it simply means that no huge governmental enterprise, conceived and put into execution almost over night, as the CWA was, can be handled with efficiency and without waste. It is axiomatic of governmental enterprise, and particularly of relief jobs where the primary purpose is to pump money into quick circulation, that they are wasteful; that administration is careless, and that efficiency is low.

There is a well recognized effort on the part of the Democratic party in this state to discredit relief administration. It is part of the game of party politics as played in this day and age. I think we can all agree it is wrong. Relief and politics should be divorced, as they have been to date in Oregon. Only chaos can result from making a partisan football of relief activities.

The facts and figures about CWA accomplishments are matters of public record. Every dollar of CWA, and other relief money spent in this state, is accounted for in reports that are available to any interested citizen. Complete audit reports of CWA expenditures are on file in Washington, D. C., in Salem and even in Vernonia. These reports are so clear and concise that even a school child can understand them. Remembering this, it is inexcusable for even so blindly partisan a citizen as Mr. Treharne to make the statement that 80 per cent of the CWA money went to some undefined republican bureau and only 20 per cent to the men on the jobs.

Let's take a look at the record. I have before me the report of the Oregon Civil Works Administration for the period from November 30, 1933, to March 31, 1934, when the CWA was wound up. This report shows that the distribution of funds expended under the direction of the Oregon Civil Works Administration

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