

Comments of the Week

ONE YEAR OF DEFENSE

Just a year ago on May 28, 1940, the first step was taken in arming this country for any eventuality. It is possible that some people are curious as to the amount which the armament program will cost. A bulletin containing that information was released last week by the Office of Emergency Management in Washington, D. C., and a reprint of pertinent figures is given below in this column:

"Armament for defense costs money—lots of it. The total program by mid-May called for expenditures of approximately 40 billion dollars (U. S. and British orders), almost all of it in 1941 and 1942. That is a staggering sum—\$310 for every man, woman and child in the United States. Yet even it will not be enough. The security and freedom of America cannot be measured in billions of dollars.

"There are three major steps in the translation of the taxpayer's dollar into weapons of war. Congress appropriates it. The Army and Navy, with the advice of civilian defense agencies, award contracts. And the treasury pays out the money as services are performed.

"Appropriations and contract authorizations amounted to 37.3 billion dollars on May 17. British orders, which also are being filled by American industry, add another 3.7 billion.

"An idea of how the 37.3 billion dollars will be spent may be obtained from the following breakdown:

	Billions of dollars
Airplanes and accessories	6.5
Ordnance (guns, powder, etc.)	7.2
Ships, motor and rail equipment	8.8
New industrial facilities	3.8
Military posts, depots, fortification, and defense housing	3.3
Other Army and Navy equipment	1.8
Miscellaneous (pay, food, reserve materials, etc.)	5.9

"What makes a defense program so expensive?

"A 35,000-ton battleship, such as the U. S. S. North Carolina, costs 70 million dollars. It takes 50 million to build an aircraft carrier, 20 to 30 million for a cruiser, 8 million for a destroyer, and 6 million for a submarine.

"And, even after maritime fortresses are built, they are expensive to maintain.

"For instance, it costs \$900—about the price of a small family car—to fire a 14-inch gun from a battleship. And there are 124 guns in the fleet with more scheduled for the two-ocean Navy. A 16-inch gun costs \$1,600 to fire.

"Aircraft is not so expensive, but it takes more planes than ships to arm the United States. Yet a four-engine bomber, complete with spare parts, costs close to half a million.

"Tanks are less expensive, but the prices are many times the cost of the family auto. The Army pays from \$27,000 for a light tank to \$67,000 for a medium tank and \$114,000 for a heavy tank, not including the cost of guns."

Those figures should give at least a vague idea that the armament program of this nation is anything but small.

COUNTY NEWS--

St. Helens

ASSESSOR SEES NEED FOR LESS HOME TAX--

Endorsement of the proposal that home owners be granted tax exemptions of certain portions of the actual value of their residences was voiced here last week by Columbia county's veteran assessor, Fred Watkins. Although Mr. Watkins did not specify the amount of exemption he would suggest, he agreed in principle with the group now circulating petitions in Portland for a constitutional amendment seeking an exemption of \$2,000 of the true cash value of owner-occupied homes. An exemption of \$2,000 or \$1,500 on homes would result in a shifting of the tax burden from residence property to other types of property, Mr. Watkins pointed out. It would relieve a considerable portion of the load which must be carried by a man buying a small home by cutting out most or all of his tax.

Limitations 'Impossible' A 40-mill tax limitation, as proposed by a Veterans of Foreign Wars post in The Dalles, was seen as impossible by Watkins unless it was accompanied by some other tax-raising scheme.

PLANS READY FOR PARADE IN FESTIVAL--

St. Helens will share with many other towns of the Portland area in participation in a major event on the Oregon calendar of celebrations, the rose festival. The festival itself is a four-day event which starts Wednesday, June 11, and concludes Saturday night, June 14, but the principal local interest in the affair will be the grand floral parade, held Friday, June 13.

St. Helens will be represented by

The Vernonia Eagle

MARVIN KAMHOLZ
Editor and Publisher

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two units when the parade, after forming in Multnomah stadium, winds its way through downtown Portland. These units will include a float, the first entered from here in the festival for two years, and a marching group, the Sylvanettes, local woman's organization.

NO LICENSE, BUT JURY SAYS 'NOT GUILTY'--

H. W. H. Adams, St. Helens grocer, last Wednesday was acquitted of a charge of failure to have a retail fish dealer's license by a jury in L. C. Elliott's justice court. The case had been set for hearing before Judge J. G. Nauman, but the defense asked a change of venue.

Principal argument of the defense was that Mr. Adams had merely neglected to obtain the license—although he was arrested April 21 and his permit had expired March 31—and that there was no evidence he had "willfully" refused to buy the permit. Mr. Adams admitted not having the license at time of his arrest.

The local grocer was arrested April 21 by State Patrolman R. W. Wheeler.

Clatskanie

PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN IS UNDERWAY--

The city council at its regular meeting Tuesday voted to appropriate \$1000 for filling and improvement of the city park if the school district would put in \$400 this year and up to a total of \$1500 during the next three or four years.

The school district proposed budget, which will be voted on June 16th, will enable the district to spend the \$400 this year and the board has committed itself as in favor of adding each year till the \$1500 is given.

The Forum

1463 N. Winter St.
Salem, Oregon
June 9, 1941

To the Editor: This is to continue the study of the Sabbath question as begun in my letter of last week.

As practically all the Protestant Christian world claims to accept the teachings of the apostle Paul as authoritative, we will now consider what he taught on this subject. We know that he kept the

Sabbath: he went into the synagogue in Thessalonica on the Sabbath, "as his manner was," and reasoned with them out of the Scriptures, preaching Christ. Acts 17:2. It is not in accordance with his teaching to declare, as does Mrs. Jennings and others, that Paul and Peter preached on this day simply because this was the time when the Jews met. Paul preached to Jews, Gentiles and Christians on the Sabbath; for though he was a Jew by birth and religion, and a learned member of the Sanhedrin, at this time he was a converted man, a devout Christian, one who suffered persecution and finally martyrdom for the cause of Christ. As a true Christian, he taught the pure doctrines of Christ, living and teaching for some three decades after Christ's death and resurrection; and never once did he mention any change in the day of worship.

In reading the book of Acts, as the life of Paul is related, we find him in all his travels preaching on the Sabbath day. See Acts 13:14; 14:1; 16:12-13; 17:1-3; 18:1-4, 11. Here is a record of his preaching on some 84 Sabbaths, while we have record of his preaching on the first day of the week only (Acts 20:7) and even that once was on what we would call Saturday night, as in Bible times the day was reckoned "from even to even" or from sunset to sunset; and a night meeting on the "first day of the week" must have been after sunset of the seventh day. And even if it had been a real Sunday gathering as we reckon today, what a slender thread it is upon which to hang a sacred institution! The seventh-day Sabbath was given by direct command of God, therefore, in order to abolish it and establish a different day of worship it would require an equally direct command from the same Divine source, and this command does not exist.

We have seen that Paul, after he became a Christian, was a Sabbath keeper; now let us see what he taught in regard to the keeping of the law, the ten-commandment law of God, of which the Sabbath command is the fourth precept.

While he was at Miletus he sent for the elders of the Ephesian church and gave them a farewell talk before going to Jerusalem. It was a solemn occasion and all wept, "knowing they should see his face no more." During this farewell speech, he said: "I have kept back nothing that was profitable unto you . . . wherefore I take you to record this day that I am pure from the blood of all men for I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." Acts 20:20-27.

Now if there had been any counsel from God, or from His Son, Jesus, who was one with God, in regard to changing the day of worship or changing any of the other commandments, surely Paul would have told the disciples; but there is absolutely no record of it.

Again, in his trial before Felix, Paul says: "But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets." Acts 24:14. And in his defense before Agrippa he said: "Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day saving none other things than those which Moses and the prophets did say should come." Acts 26:22. Thus we see that Paul believed and taught the law of God, the same law taught by Moses and the prophets, of which David says in Psalm 111:7-8: "All his commandments are sure; they stand fast forever and ever; and the heresy of which Paul was accused by the Jews was his preaching the Gospel of Christ and His resurrection from the dead: not the bringing in of a new Sabbath, or preaching that any one of the ten commandments of the law was done away with.

In conclusion, I would like to call attention once more to the fact that Jesus never changed the law; instead, He says that Heaven and earth shall pass away sooner than one jot or one tittle shall pass from the law, and He adds: "Whoever shall break one of these

least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called least in the kingdom of Heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven." Matt. 5:17-19. These commandments include the Sabbath command; which, even if men do call it least and teach people to break it, is still in force and as binding as the rest of them. Nowhere in the Bible is the fourth commandment separated from the rest to be discarded, or replaced by another day of divine worship. Jesus says that He kept His Father's commandments, and bids us do likewise. We are exhorted to follow His example in all things; and this must include Sabbath keeping. God never changed the day, Jesus never changed the day and surely no one else had any right to change a divine command. Sunday keeping rests entirely upon "traditions of men," and not true followers of Jesus. Hear what He says about it: "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt. 15:9.

Therefore to all honest hearted Christians I would say in all sincerity: if you truly desire to do right and live in a way that is pleasing to the Saviour, do not follow the traditions and commandments of men; but rather, follow the teaching and example of Jesus Himself and His devoted disciples and receive the Divine blessing. "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14.

Mrs. A. N. Oakes, Salem, Ore.

Washington Snapshots

by JAMES PRESTON

BEHIND-THE-HAND whispers in Washington tell of new plans for a reorganization of the defense setup in an effort to speed the rearmament drive.

The present machinery, as nearly everyone admits is hodgepodge, hit and miss, and particularly unwieldy because everything has to funnel through a bottleneck—the White House.

For example, OPM cannot decide whether to build new steel plants until the President makes up his mind whether they are needed; Leon Henderson and his price regulators cannot determine whether legislation is needed to strengthen their powers until the President reaches a decision; and so on and on.

The President naturally spends a large part of time worrying over details of that kind. The truth is that William Knudson is as right now as he was a year ago when he said the only defense was "Time." Valuable time is lost while things drip through the White House funnel.

With few exceptions—and businessmen at OPM are among those who agree—there is little argument against a change. But the important thing to some is that apparently those who are in charge of key phases of the program are not being consulted about the new plan.

OPM businessmen have speeded production tremendously since the first new defense machinery was created a year ago. But today they know nothing about the proposed reorganization. As one strongly pro-administration businessman at OPM put it:

"Somebody in an office or a bedroom (Harry Hopkins' office is a White House bedroom) blocks away from here is thinking up a new scheme. As usual, those involved will

not hear about it until it is signed on the dotted line and sealed."

OPMers might not be too surprised at that if they had been in Washington longer. For after all, when the present defense machine was created, it was set up with almost complete disregard for an industrial mobilization plan drafted by the War Department after 20 years!

Typical of the ways things are going and, in fact, an indication of a complete lack of understanding of what is happening, was a recent press release issued by the Office for Emergency Management (not the Knudson OPM), which is the holding company for all defense agencies.

This release summarized what has happened in the last year, and included these sentences:

"On March 19, the President set up the National Defense Mediation Board, and its prompt settlement of the 75-day-old Allis Chalmers tie-up and a number of smaller strikes stemmed the tide. Public fears began to subside as industry and labor put their shoulders to the wheel. National defense again forged ahead."

The very day that release was issued this was the strike picture:

Eleven thousand workers in the Pacific Coast airplane industry voted to go on strike;

Pacific Coast shipyards were closed down by a strike;

Production at the government's own \$35,000,000 munitions plant in Ravenna, Ohio, was halted by a strike;

AFL leaders warned that new shipyard strikes threatened in the Great Lakes area;

And the threat of another disabling strike hung over the coal industry.

That was not an exceptional day. The government's own figures show that the number of disputes has increased since March, and the number of strikes actually adjusted has dropped in the last 20 days.

In February, before the Mediation Board "stemmed the tide" of strikes, the U. S. Conciliation Service assigned its men to 327 strikes. In March, the total was 378, in April 439, and in the first four weeks of May it had risen to 474.

At the same time, the number of disputes adjusted by the Conciliation

Lodges

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Mike Willard, N. G.

Paul Gordon, Secretary 4-41--

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8 o'clock

Alford Dore, W. P.

Willis Johnson, W. Sec'y. 7-41

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Vernonia, Oregon

Meetings:—I. O. O. F. Hall, Second and

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Pythian Sisters

Vernonia Temple No. 61

Vernonia, Oregon

Meetings:—I. O. O. F. Hall

Second and Fourth Wednesdays Each Month 2-41

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First and Third Mondays 1-41

Meets First Wed. and Third Mon. of Each Month.

AUXILIARY

First and Third Mondays 1-41

Service dropped from 102 in April to 98 in May.

That's some "tide stemming!"

Book Talk . . .

By EDNA ENGEN

"One good book is the precious life-blood of a master-spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life."

—John Milton

"One Foot In Heaven" by Hartzell Spence.

This book has been advertised as the story of a practical parson with one foot in Heaven and the other planted firmly on the earth. The Reverend William H. Spence was truly a practical preacher. He made Christianity a living, breathing thing and had a grand time doing it.

He especially enjoyed his work when there was some goal to work toward or when his congregation was up in arms about something. He thrived on such difficulties and many were the clever ways he straightened them out or overcame them.

"Aunt Elsa" by E. G. Pinkham.

This is the story of a charming old lady. You will not soon forget Aunt Elsa with her snapping eyes and hair as black as it ever was in her girlhood. Nor will you forget the poignancy of her monthly visits to the dusty shipping offices to inquire about her husband's Clipper ship—twenty years overdue from China!

One of the most frequent causes of leaky valves in an automobile engine are carbon deposits on the valve seats according to a recent mechanical service bulletin of the Oregon State Motor Association. Such deposits prevent the valves from closing properly and may pit the polished valve surfaces.

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