

Prairieland Talk

# Raging Waves on Life's Sea

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—In the waters washing shores of the Philippine islands Japanese seaman and divers bring to the surface the remains of some 400 ocean freighters and other boats wrecked in the war that ravaged that region more than 10 years ago.

What is salvaged is taken to Japan to be built into new ships, presumably for peaceful pursuits.

Out on the sea of life human wrecks go down day-by-day. These wrecks may have started on the sea of life with the distant harbor of fame or fortune as their goal. Somewhere of life's voyage the waves of trouble or disappointment overwhelmed the voyagers. Sails there a human today to the harbor of success that has not had raging waves along the way to meet.



Romain Saunders

Fortified by courage, strengthened by moral and spiritual inspiration the harbor is reached. In front of post offices throughout the land stands the challenge in bold letters. "The Greatest Need in the World Is Men and Women."

The earth is crowded with human specimens that end up in wreckage on the sea of life, but the world's need is being met by men and women who have courage, moral and spiritual endowment.

Homes for the aged conducted not merely to extend a helping hand to those who have no longer wanted but as a commercial enterprise here and there over the country are going up in flames with horrifying loss of life. Earlier generations knew nothing of an institution known as nursing home as many sons and daughters do today. Fathers and mothers in the hours of life's sunset, were cared for in the homes of sons and daughters. Nursing home—burying place of fond memories, desolation and loneliness.

By a vote of 26-15, the legislature wrote "no" to the sales tax bill. Senators from Omaha led in the fight against the measure. Senators from the west half of the state were the chief supporters of the measure. The bill as framed would have put the burden of a sales tax largely upon those the least able to carry such a load, the city dwellers supporting themselves and families by daily toil. In the several states that have the sales tax that I have visited, I had not heard a word favoring it. A state sales tax simply means another tax with no let up on the other taxes. Other proposed tax measures are yet to be voted on by state senators. Maybe citizens of the state would give the boys at the state house the glad hand if instead of planning more taxation they would lay the cards to cut down state expenditures.

March begins on Friday, as did February. A pioneer citizen of O'Neill considered Friday an unlucky day and would start no new job on that day. When have we had so mild and pleasant midwinter month on prairieland as the month that closes today on Thursday and got its start on Friday.

Editorial

## Legislature Has Pulse

(Guest editorial from the Tekamah Plaindealer) It was good news to the great majority of Nebraskans when the unicameral legislature killed the proposed sales tax last week by a decisive majority of 26-15. The sales tax would have eliminated the 8.09 mill state property tax but Tekamah taxpayers would still pay some 50 mills taxes because the state tax is a rather small bite of the tax load in Tekamah and similar towns and cities.

The young man with a family of small children, the older folks with a limited amount of income, would be hit a hard blow by a sales tax and the added burden on owners of businesses, particularly small businesses, would make the going rougher.

The pressure for more and more money is not coming from the ordinary taxpayer. It is coming from the bureaus which want to grow larger and more powerful. Gov. Victor Anderson has asked the legislature to "hold the line" on spending. The taxpayers of Nebraska are paying for many services which might well be dispensed with until agriculture and small business can return to a more prosperous status.

A majority of the legislators have the pulse of the taxpayers as was evidenced by the vote on the proposed sales tax.

### Reservoir Legislation

The Nebraska legislature by overwhelming margins, refused to kill bills that would require a measure of control of deep well irrigation. One bill would require state registration of irrigation wells and the other would forbid the drilling of a well within six hundred feet of another farm.

As the Omaha World-Herald stated in a recent editorial, government controls over any type of industry are repugnant, but this is a field in which proper measure of control may be imperative for the common good.

Some experts say the underground water supply is inexhaustible. Others say there is imminent danger of depletion. Some say the water pumped from wells today fell in the form of rain or snow some 70 years ago in the Black Hills region. Others contend the dry cycle of the thirties—plus 70—spell trouble ahead.

Our habitation of the area wouldn't last long if the water supply should run out at some future date.

Certainly the underground rivers should be protected just as the draw on surface rivers is controlled.

The World-Herald's brief editorial summed up the problem with a quote from Sen. Frank Nelson of O'Neill:

"It's not going to do any good to pass legislation after we've drained the reservoir."

### South Fought for Principles

"Most Southerners now believe that, had Lincoln lived, the South would not have been subjected to the oppressions of the reconstruction period which aroused more resentment than the sufferings of the Civil war," writes James F. Byrnes, governor of South Carolina and former justice of the U. S. supreme court.

"They believe, too, that Lincoln would have appreciated the heroic fight of confederate sol-

did business, watch care for a sick loved one, pleasure or midnight carousal rob you of a view of the charming scene of a February morning an hour before the pink glow across the eastern sky ushered in another sunrise? At the early hour high in the heavens to the southwest the moon in all its golden glory looked down upon prairieland, the morning star alone among distant worlds still shines reflecting celestial light. The silent, ceaseless march of time moves on, moon and star fade from view as the sunlight glow ushers in another day, men and women off to take up the day's job, childhood and youth scampering off to school, aged citizens left to set and dream of days and activities now gone. They soon with folded hands will be laid away, the childhood and youth of school days will be the men and women carrying the load of life's burdens, and another generation sits and dreams of other days. And while the earth remaineth the moon and morning star will shine from out the southwest heavens above prairieland and the sun will usher in another day.

Nebraska has 270 newspapers, 22 of these being dailies with vision beyond state boundaries. If you are interested in what prairieland patriots are up to read your hometown weekly. Tight papers suspended publication in recent weeks. The Colorado Press association met February 15, with the Nebraska Press association president, Editor Henry Mead of the Seward Independent, as the main speaker. Two Holt county publishers have served as president of the Nebraska Press association—Editor Ralph Kelly of Atkinson and the late D. H. Cronin of O'Neill.

Two Nebraskans, who went from prairieland to our nation's historical capital city to do their bit to keep the government functioning, have been in the news lately. Val Peterson is mentioned as a diplomatic representative from the home-base to Denmark. From the little town of Elgin some 50 miles southeast of O'Neill to the governor's office at Lincoln, from there to Washington as civil defense director, and now maybe to Denmark, Val ought to fit in the picture as he comes from Scandinavian stock, is a republican and a Lutheran as most Danes and Swedes are. The other Nebraskan in the news is J. Lee Rankin, a Lincoln lawyer, who is now solicitor general at Washington and is mentioned to fill a vacancy on the supreme court.

Back there where the guys are on the jump to get The Frontier to press there is some times confusion, which accounts for "few fellows" being changed to "fine fellows," and the superintending putting in galley corrections misplacing lines.

Another sheet torn from the calendar. Winter to give way to windy March. Frost and snow blown to distant lands, soon again the trees, long weeks bereft of foliage, will be robed once more in velvet green, faded flowers bloom, birds sing, the landscape adorned with milder colors—but not yet; winter lingers in the lap of spring. The prairie rose, the nodding goldenrod, the meadow-lark, the golden crested eagle and chattering swallows will not be seen for some weeks yet. Close the door, Tom, and poke up the fire.

Mistakes left behind will remain there. Ahead awaits victory.

diers, the vast majority of whom owned no slaves, was due not to the desire to perpetuate slavery but to their belief that, under the constitution of the United States, it was the right of each state to regulate its own internal affairs.

The Neligh News asserts the proposed interstate highway across Nebraska should cross the sandhills instead of one of the three routes south of the Platte. The Neligh News wants the route to extend from Omaha straight west to Scottsbluff. The Frontier doesn't give a hoot if a fancy four-lane highway is never built. They should improve and do a job with the highways we have, thereby serving and benefitting a great many more people.

Nothing wrong with the country that some rain wouldn't help.

President Eisenhower's big give-away, provided in his budget, is drawing plenty of fire from all corners of the country. Welfare state is the over-tone in his budget plans and our guess—and hope—is congress will chop it to pieces.

Into every life, according to the old adage, some rain must fall. But at the moment it would seem to the Kansas City Star's Bill Vaughan to depend on how long you intend to live, and in what part of the country.

A combat veteran of World War II was seated in the Royal theater the other night for the showing of "War and Peace". He fainted. "The war was all right," he explained later, "it was the peace that got me."

A confused deer was killed by a motor car on the turnpike near Lawrence, Kans., and it wasn't at one of the cloverleaf interchanges either, otherwise the confusion might be understood.

With a terrible depression being predicted in some quarters, maybe the government had better lay off hydrogen bombs and start stockpiling tranquilizer pills.



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