

Petain Has Trump Card In His Sleeve

His Order Would Send Great Colon of Force to Aid of Britain in Present War.

By DEWITT MACKENZIE (By the Associated Press) Pucier Hitler would appear all unexpectedly to have encountered a Tatar in the person of France's aged but agile dictator, Marshal Petain, who is trying to lead his people out of the wilderness of defeat.

The supposedly tractable old soldier suddenly has invited German fire by his blizzarding ousting of Vice-Premier Laval, his right-hand man and heir to his office as chief of state.

This sensational move is said to have been coincident with a refusal by the marshal to allow naz troops to pass through French ports to the aid of Mussolini's hard-pressed forces in Libya and Albania. Laval reportedly acted as intermediary for the German request.

Now Nazi Envoy Otto Abetz is in Vichy, with a heavy guard of soldiers, to investigate a still obscure position and find whether Petain's attitude means that he is talking in cooperation with Hitler. Should Abetz discover this to be the case, the fuhrer's answer to Petain might be the military occupation of all France and the ousting of the government, since Franco-German peace hasn't yet been concluded, but only the armistice.

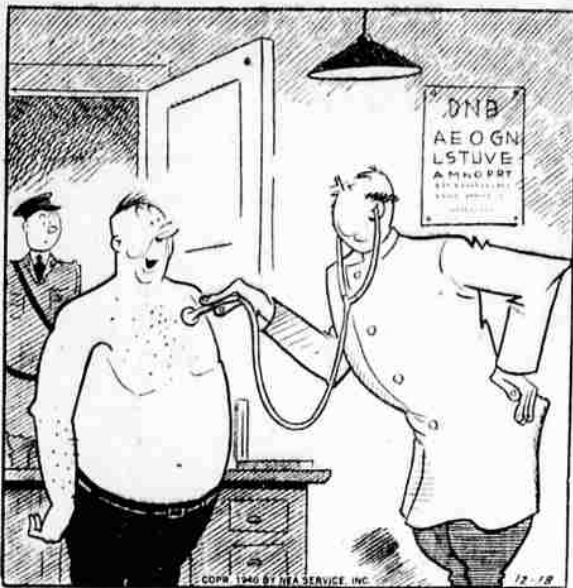
But to my mind a matter of far greater importance than what Petain has done is why he did it—what gave him the courage to do it. That I believe must be Abetz's big problem.

I suspect that there's studied method in the old marshal's gambit. There is protruding from his sleeves something which looks suspiciously like an ace.

The fact that Hitler is approaching the situation cautiously would indicate that he, too, sees the ace—of which there's none.

Petain's dismissal of Laval isn't surprising. As long ago as last October I reported in this column that Laval was ambitious, and that from personal contact with him I thought he would be a tough opponent in a poker game. That was the time that he arranged the meeting between Petain and Hitler to discuss Franco-Ger-

FUNNY BUSINESS



"I don't think I'd do for the submarine service—I can't hold my breath very long!"

man cooperation. In short, Laval is getting the credit in many quarters of humoring after his chief's job.

In this connection it is important to note that Laval has been strong for cooperation with Germany, and that he long has been bitterly anti-British.

Now the moral of the present imbroglio would seem to be that Marshal Petain, while undoubtedly willing to cooperate with Hitler's aims, has no intention of sacrificing his country on the altar of the sake of placating Germany. Among other things he has indicated that he will not join nazidom in making war on Britain.

And where does Marshal Petain as leader of a crusaded and defeated nation get the pluck to defy the conqueror of most of Europe?

I personally believe Petain's strength lies in the fact that France's colonial empire is still intact and unconquered. There is small doubt that this

Rayon Produced From Seaweed

LEEDS, Yorkshire, Eng.—(AP) correspondence of the Associated Press.—A method to make rayon from seaweed is announced by Prof. O. B. Speakman of Leeds university. Prof. Speakman says the seaweed rayon is cheaper to manufacture than the present rayons. He did the research for a British firm whose name has not been made public. The announcement said that production of the new material is expected to start within a month. One advantage of the fabric, Prof. Speakman said, is resistance to fire. A piece of this rayon, soaked in gasoline and burned, retained its strength and texture. Details of the fire experiment were not made public, but Prof. Speakman suggested that the fire test indicated possible war uses for the seaweed fabric.

Inquiry among American chemical authorities brought the statement that seaweed rayon should be feasible, but that an industrial drawback is the expense of gathering, which, according to American experiments with sea sources of rayon, costs more than the trees and cotton from which rayon is now made. The chemists said that under suitable conditions rayon fibers are resistant to fire.

Myrtle Creek

MYRTLE CREEK, Dec. 15.—Mrs. H. M. Shierhoff Sr. returned Monday evening from Colorado, where she had spent several weeks visiting her parents. En route home she stopped in Richmond, Calif., for a visit with her son-in-law and daughter and granddaughter, Mr.

OUR TODAY'S SUGGESTION Westinghouse Mazda LIGHTS For a Brighter Holiday Season at Parslow HARDWARE CO.

and Mrs. Lynn Bailey and baby, Lydia. Mrs. Mary Hammett, who has been visiting with Mrs. Ada Crawford and other friends, left for Portland Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse W. Adamson of Springfield, Oregon, were dinner guests at the home of his cousin, J. W. Adamson, Tuesday noon. Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Heath accompanied by Mrs. Heath's mother, Mrs. Mamie Rust and her two small daughters, Carlene and Carolyn, visited their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bass in Melrose, last Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Heath returned in time to attend the ball games of the Comets and Vikings with the Oakland teams the same evening.

Mrs. Mary Langhear and Miss Sada Maxson of Campbell, California, sisters of Dr. Maxson, arrived here Wednesday evening via bus for an extended visit in the home of Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Maxson. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dyer motored to Dillard Friday and spent the night with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Laurance. Oscar Bishop, a recent arrival from Nebraska, has rented the

Howard Brownston place on Neal lane with view of making his home here. Darrel Buel is working for Mrs. Sharp at the Union service station, taking the place of her son-in-law Lloyd Curtis, who is returning to his work at the cedar mill. Ralph Haley, a Myrtle Creek boy, is now staying in Canyonville, driving truck for C. E. Hensley of Roseburg, bringing logs from the camp above Drew to the Myrtle Creek Lumber company. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnson were down from Boomer hill Saturday, getting their mail and shopping. They were receiving congratulations on their 45th wedding anniversary Dec. 15, which they would spend quietly at home.

Robert McCrae, who for the past few weeks has been engaged in taking testing samples from the nickel mine situated near Kildale for the government, left Thursday for a visit with his family at McCall, Idaho. Mr. McCrae expects to return about the first of January to continue his work at the mine. He reports very satisfactory results from these tests.

Lots of Rain. One of the heaviest rainfalls ever recorded in the United States occurred at Taylor, Tex., on Sept. 9-10, 1921, when 23 inches of rain fell during the two days.

BASKETBALL Tuesday, December 17th Senior High Gym 7:30 P. M. Roseburg High School vs. Roseburg High School Alumni Adults 35c; High School and Junior High Students 25c; Kiddies 10c, tax exempt BASKETBALL CLINIC PRECEDING GAME

AMAZING NEW DARK BREAD DELIGHTS THOUSANDS!

Almost forty years ago, a doctor who was very ill invented a compound cereal food with which he hoped to bring himself back to heartiness and health. This food, which was chiefly composed of whole grain rye and wheat, he called Roman Meal, because in olden days the ration of a Roman soldier was a pound of wheat and a pound of rye every day. When this doctor had recovered he placed this amazing food on the market and for more than three decades Roman Meal has been famous as a cereal and as an ingredient in other foods. Now this delicious cereal has been baked into a new, delightful, utterly different kind of dark bread... ROMAN MEAL BREAD... which is delighting thousands of people every day. Roman Meal Bread is unique. It gives you EXTRA minerals, EXTRA vitamins, roughage that is mild but efficient, and yet this amazing loaf is low in caloric content. This makes it ideal for Diet, Reducing and Roughage; however, Roman Meal Bread is also a splendid bread for general table use... so tasty, so tempting, so genuinely good to eat that your very first golden brown slice will make you cry: "This is the dark bread for me!" And you'll be right! Roman Meal Bread IS the dark bread for you and everyone else! However, when you buy Roman Meal Bread, be sure you get the genuine. Others, seeking to cash in on the sensational public demand for this loaf, are now wrapping their breads so they look like Roman Meal Bread. Roman Meal Bread cannot be imitated because only one baker in a community is licensed to produce it, so when you buy, look for the Roman soldier on the band and make sure you get GENUINE ROMAN MEAL BREAD!



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