

The News-Review

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FOR WAR OR PEACE?

By CHARLES V. STANTON

On the threshold of a new year, our minds are concerned with the possibility of another war.

Experts tell us there are no immediate prospects of war, but they give no assurance beyond the next year or two. It is admitted that war COULD start any time should some unforeseen "incident" occur.

It is our opinion that the year 1950 will prove to be a turning point in the existing cold war. Decisions and events during the next few months will determine whether we are to have peace, a long postponement of war, or be involved in another ideologic blood bath in the comparatively near future.

Several possibilities are to be considered. Russia is losing ground in the West, but is extending her influence in the East. She has gained tremendously in populations and resources brought under the Red banner, but has weakened her position with powers essential to economic welfare. She has, at the same time, absorbed so much territory within her sphere of influence that her military organization must be kept at full strength, thus taking much potentially productive population out of productive work, while, simultaneously increasing the levy upon the people at home to meet the costs of the huge armies abroad. History shows that such a situation has led to collapse of nations and civilizations. Nations can support only for a limited time a large segment of unproductive population.

Recognizing this well-established law of economics, Russia is endeavoring to circumvent the principle by stripping satellite countries of factories and industries, while utilizing millions of political and conquered slave laborers to produce for her domestic and military needs. How long this artificial system can prevent collapse will be proven only by the experience of the next few years. But the Roman empire couldn't do it, nor could nazism or fascism.

Another interesting thing to watch during 1950 will be the result of the celebration by the Roman Catholic church of its Holy Year—an event occurring at 25-year intervals.

The Catholic church has declared spiritual war on Communism. The Church is a far more potent enemy than nations armed with tanks and bombs. Already the Church has given communism much trouble in its western zone. Communist police and military authority have tried with only partial success to destroy the influence of the Church. Many Catholics, while not aggressively fighting communism, are still obedient to the Church and, at heart, are unsympathetic toward communism.

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that the spiritual enthusiasm created during the Holy Year will crystallize in open resistance against communism. The Church even has sufficient strength within Russia itself, if this strength can be consolidated, to help in breaking down the communist ideology.

It is anticipated that communist authorities will prevent pilgrimages to Rome by populations from satellite countries. The millions of people traveling to Rome will come largely from the free states of Europe and from the United States. But the very fact that devout Catholics in conquered countries are prevented from obtaining the Church's indulgences and blessings may add fuel to the fires of revolt.

It may be wishful thinking to believe that the cancer of communism can be destroyed without a major operation involving bloodshed. But modern medical science is treating cancer today by planting seeds of radium or radioactive substances within the malignant growth. It is entirely possible that spiritual radiation from seeds of faith, stirred into new energy by churchly revival, may destroy the political cancer by action from within.

The encirclement of Russia, the economic blockade, the action of the Marshall plan on European recovery, the situation in China and the waiting, delaying and check-mating connected with economic warfare all are contributing their part toward conclusion of ideological struggle. The year 1950 will see some events of vital influence in directing the course for future years—a course that will lead either to war or peace. The observer, who has so much at stake—as has every man, woman and child in the world—should find much interest and excitement in the things that transpire during this first year of the crucial 1950s.

Rice Valley

By MRS. CECIL HARTFORD

The Christmas program held at the Rice Valley hall last Wednesday night was well attended. A large beautifully decorated tree with many gleaming lights and surrounded by a host of gifts to be exchanged, greeted the guests as they arrived.

Mrs. Hartford was chairman and Billy LaMar was master of ceremonies of the program conducted during the evening.

The program opened with the audience singing "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," followed by a reading by Helen Abbott; a short comedy "Rastus and Rufus" two negro boys, by Victor Hartford and Billy Davis; a men's quartet singing two songs, by William Castor, Frank Eggers, Bob Crawford, and HARRY ABBOTT; a reading by Tressa Dunbar; an accordion solo by Al Fonken; a recitation "Two Santa Clauses" by Berneta Hartford; Songs "Silent Night" and "Up on the House Tops" by the Hartford and Abbott girls; a reading

by Lavada Crawford; a Christmas story from the Bible followed by a reading, by Marie Rice; second appearance of Rastus and Rufus, two negro boys; the program came to a close with the audience singing "America."

Al Fonken played Santa Claus and helped distribute the many gifts.

Those enjoying the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Al Fonken; Mrs. Ralph Emerson, Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Churchill, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Rice and daughter Karen, Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Rice, Mrs. Harry Dunbar, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kidwell, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Walker, Norman Walker, Mr. and Mrs. William Castor, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth LaMar, Billy, Cecily and Kathy LaMar, Mrs. Cecil Hartford, Victor, Cecil and Berneta Hartford, Billy Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wales and children, Frank Eggers, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Abbott, Loretta, Carol, Margaret, and Mary Abbott, Mrs. Emmett Churchill, and Mr. and Mrs. James Shepherd and LeRoy.

Let This Be a Lesson to All of Us!



Scapes from the MENDING BASKET

By Vahnett S. Martin

On the Thursday before Christmas, although it was raining, and the river was running quite high, the Siuslaw was a slate-gray-green in color, and even clear where it slid rapidly over sheets of rock. Such a lot of white water! All along were many, many fishermen! Some were in small boats that bent up sharply at each end and made me think of the little rockers children have. Just need a horse's head and a hand grip of proportionate size!

Never did we see so little traffic on the road, either 38 or 36. Wonder why? Have the tourists gone home? No one stays home on account of rain in Oregon! Maybe they were working on Christmas packages and the wind up of the Christmas cookies. The highway crews were working as usual. Cleaning out ditches, filling in tar and rock, working on a bridge to replace a covered bridge, manning a big rock-crusher installation, doing the never-ending jobs that know no let-up here. It's a wonder the roads are as good as they are when you think of the mileage, the open country, the sagging

slides, the everlasting winter mud, the rain to make the work less pleasant, falling trees, and so on.

It seemed good, however, to see the rocks with water sliding down their surfaces making them look so black, and all the little rills running down again. (Seeley creek sang its first song the day before Thanksgiving; were we glad to hear its murmur again!) Oh, how bright everything is! I don't believe even Ireland is greener.

That makes me think: In the mail the other day came an airmail letter from Tipperary, Eire. The writer had seen the excerpt from my letter in the Country Gentleman last April; His subscription had expired. The government wouldn't let him send money out of the country for subscriptions. Would I send him my C. G. and what English or Irish magazine would I like in exchange? I wrapped up our last C. G., and went on making cookies. Our R.F.D. mailbox is better than a bazaar fish-pond. You just never know what you'll pull out next!

Lower Costs Of Highways Loom For Coming Year

NEW YORK. — (AP) — American taxpayers are expected to put up a record \$2 billion next year for roads and highways. Today they have the cheering word they might save \$200 million on the deal.

That is because road construction costs are down about 10 per cent from their 1948 peak, and may even drop another five per cent, while highway productivity is reported up.

The resulting saving on next year's road bill could mean either \$200 million for more roads, or a \$200 million reduction in taxes. However, don't count your tax savings before they are hatched. Taxes often go up, rarely come down.

Part of the cost of building highways is done by taxes motorists pay. The annual burden of state and federal gasoline and automotive taxes now runs "alarmingly close to \$100 a vehicle," according to Baird H. Markham, director of the American Petroleum Industries committee of the American Petroleum Institute.

Markham elaborates on a subject naturally very close to the institute's heart: "The gasoline tax nationally averages about 33 per cent of the retail price of this product."

From all parts of the nation comes the cheering word that while the United States launches itself on its greatest road building spree, costs are on their way down.

Massachusetts reports that contractors recently bid 2 to 30 per cent lower than the state's estimate of road construction cost.

Colorado finds construction costs down 12 per cent. Arkansas rejoices in a similar drop, but worries lest the minimum wage hike to 75 cents an hour next month may wipe out the gain.

California finds that by mid-year road costs were already down 8 1/2 per cent from the peak, which occurred nationally in the final months of 1948. Richard H. Wilson, assistant state highway engineer for California, reports on some reasons for the drop:

1. Increased labor productivity, which he thinks may be due to more competition for jobs.
2. End to uncertainties—ready availability of materials at guaranteed prices, plus the stable supply of labor, lets contractors cut the contingency items in their bids.
3. The drop in material prices for the first time since 1940. Under this he lists excavation costs down 23 per cent from last year; class B Portland cement down 12 per cent; bar reinforcing steel down 12 per cent; and structural steel down 24 per cent.

Evasion Of Taxes Costs Uncle Sam Billions Yearly

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — Rep. Doughton (D.-N.C.) said he believes congress will give the treasury "every agent it needs" for a crack-down on people who evade their taxes.

Doughton is chairman of the tax-framing house ways and means committee. One member of that group, Rep. Forand (D.-R.I.), estimated earlier this week that the government is losing as much as \$5,000,000,000 a year through evasion and use of loopholes in the tax laws.

Both Doughton and Forand indicated the ways and means committee will be inclined to work on legislation to shut off this "leakage" before even considering any possible request for higher taxes.

Doughton said in an interview congress should do something right away about excise taxes. He said he hoped some of these levies—"particularly those that slow down business and cause undue hardships on consumers"—could be reduced.

But if these taxes are cut it may be necessary to find other sources of revenue, Doughton added. On such things as light bulbs, luggage, telephone bills, photographic supplies and railroad tickets.

Demented Man Dies In Human Torch Manner

BEND, Dec. 30. — (AP) — A Christmas day fire that caused the death of a florist here was called by the coroner today "accidental suicide" while demented.

At the coroner's inquest, Mrs. Ivan R. Pickett testified her husband had poured gasoline over the living room floor shortly before the house erupted in flame. She said she fled just before a "terrific explosion" rocked the house. Pickett ran outdoors with his clothing aflame and died on the ground.

Vital Statistics

Marriage Licenses Issued
SHORTLEDGE-HAWK—Walter Leland Shortledge and Gladys N. Hawk, both of Roseburg.

PEPER-JACKSON — Chester Wayne Peper and Ella Louise Jackson, both of Coos Bay.

AMSTUTZ-ENWILLER — John Amstutz and Edna E. Enwiller, both of Seattle.

Springfield Advised To Abandon Utility Plan

SPRINGFIELD, Dec. 30. — (AP) — A Mountain States Power company attorney Wednesday night told Springfield councilmen that his company would not consider selling its power property to the Miller city for \$510,000.

The attorney, Allan Smith, requested the council and the city of Springfield to forget about its \$800,000 bond issue plans to finance a city-owned power system, and to let Mountain States operate for a period of five years.

Two New Rotarians Inducted At Meeting

Clarence Landis and Ellis Bartram were inducted into the Roseburg Rotary club at the regular meeting at the Hotel Umpqua, Thursday noon.

A short skit explaining the purposes and ideals of the club and the actual induction ceremony were under the direction of Claude Bowden, President. Leroy Hart welcomed the new members on behalf of entire membership.

EMPLOYERS REMINDED
SALEM. — (AP) — Employers must remember to give their employees forms showing the amount of state income taxes withheld from their salaries during 1949. The State Tax Commission says. The employer must make three copies of the form. One goes to the employee, one to the State Tax commission, and the other is kept by the employer.

Several thousand employers didn't fill out these forms last year.

Local Equipment Company Plans Annual Celebration

One of the big events on the farm calendar for January is the annual John Deere-"Caterpillar" day celebration to be held at the Interstate Tractor and Equipment company store here Friday, Jan. 6, announced Joe Chamberlain, Roseburg store manager.

"Friday is our day to play host to the hundreds of farm friends throughout Douglas county and surrounding area," stated Joe, "and we're going all out to show them a grand time."

Feature of the program, Chamberlain disclosed, would be the full-length entertainment film, "Roots in the Soil," a Hollywood-produced film dramatizing life in rural America. Its action centers around a small-town banker

In the Day's News

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also "entirely in mathematics." That is to say, it was only an equation IMAGINED by him.

Einstein's relativity equation suggested the possibility of the splitting of the atom and you know what the splitting of the atom has led to.

So—
Le's not laugh when we are told that Einstein has imagined another mathematical equation that might lead in time to the solution of the mystery of gravitation.

THIS is the point of this whole business:

If we could find out what gravitation is made of, we WOULD PROBABLY LEARN HOW TO CONTROL GRAVITATION.

If we could learn how to control gravitation—

LET'S stop right here. We have troubles enough in this world at the moment without opening up such Pandora's boxes as control of gravitation.

DOWN where the perpetually warm waters of the Indian ocean meet the perpetually warm waters of the South Pacific, the Dutch colony hitherto known as the East Indies ceases to be and the United States of Indonesia comes into existence.

The United States of Indonesia starts off with some 77 million people. When we broke off from Mother England to start the United States of America, there weren't a lot more than a MILLION of us.

The Indonesians are tackling the toughest of all problems on a bigger scale than we did.

ELEANOR Roosevelt (whom in many ways I greatly admire) congratulates the Indonesians on their new republic, and adds: "With their new freedom GOES RESPONSIBILITY, and it is my hope that the people of Indonesia may grow to a stable and good life."

I'm not trying to put myself in Eleanor's class, but I too would like to add a thought on this historic occasion.

I HOPE NO DEMAGOGS TRY TO SELL THE 77 MILLION INDONESIANS THE IDEA OF SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

That idea and liberty never can mix.

PHONE 100
between 6 15 and 7 p. m., if you have not received your News-Review.
Ask for Harold Mobley

and his family who play an important part in community life. It combines comedy, suspense and good music and features Richard Travis and Rochelle Hudson, supported by three of Hollywood's best younger actors and actresses and an unusually fine cast.

Also being shown are a selection of factory insights and action pictures of the latest farm tractors and equipment that have been designed to meet local farming conditions . . . pictures that will bring farmers up to date on the latest trends in farm machinery.

A complete lunch will be served during the program and an opportunity will be afforded attending farmers to visit with each other and to look over the equipment displays and the facilities.

Show is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. Friday. Farmers are invited to bring their family, friends and neighbors.

Swedish Businessman Gets Czech Prison Term

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia, Dec. 30. — (AP) — A Swedish businessman was sentenced to three years in prison Wednesday, charged with smuggling Czech tools out of the country and helping Czech citizens to flee.

Holger Hjelm, 29-year-old director of a Stockholm importing firm, was convicted with five Czechs, including three women, on general charges of industrial sabotage. Hjelm also was fined \$200 and ordered to leave the country when his prison term expires. His property here was confiscated.

Oregon Youth Killed In California Accident

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 30. — (AP) — Fremont L. Sloniger, 9, Sweet Home, Ore., was killed Wednesday when the car in which he was riding overturned on a steep road in Griffith park. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Sloniger, and two other children were injured.

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Let your New Year's Resolution be to do your 1950 business with a home-owned, home-operated bank. All modern banking facilities available, including safe deposit boxes and night depository service.
Douglas County State Bank
Member . . . Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Celebrate the NEW YEAR
at the Shalimar Room
Celebrate New Year's Eve at the Shalimar Room—Roseburg's favorite and finest night spot.
New Year's Breakfast
Your first breakfast of 1950 included in cover charge of \$5.00 couple.
Woody Riosa Trio
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